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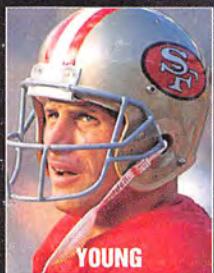
INSIDE
SPORTS

August 1994

NFL Preseason Preview

**Have the
Cowboys
Blown
It?**

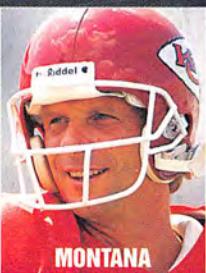
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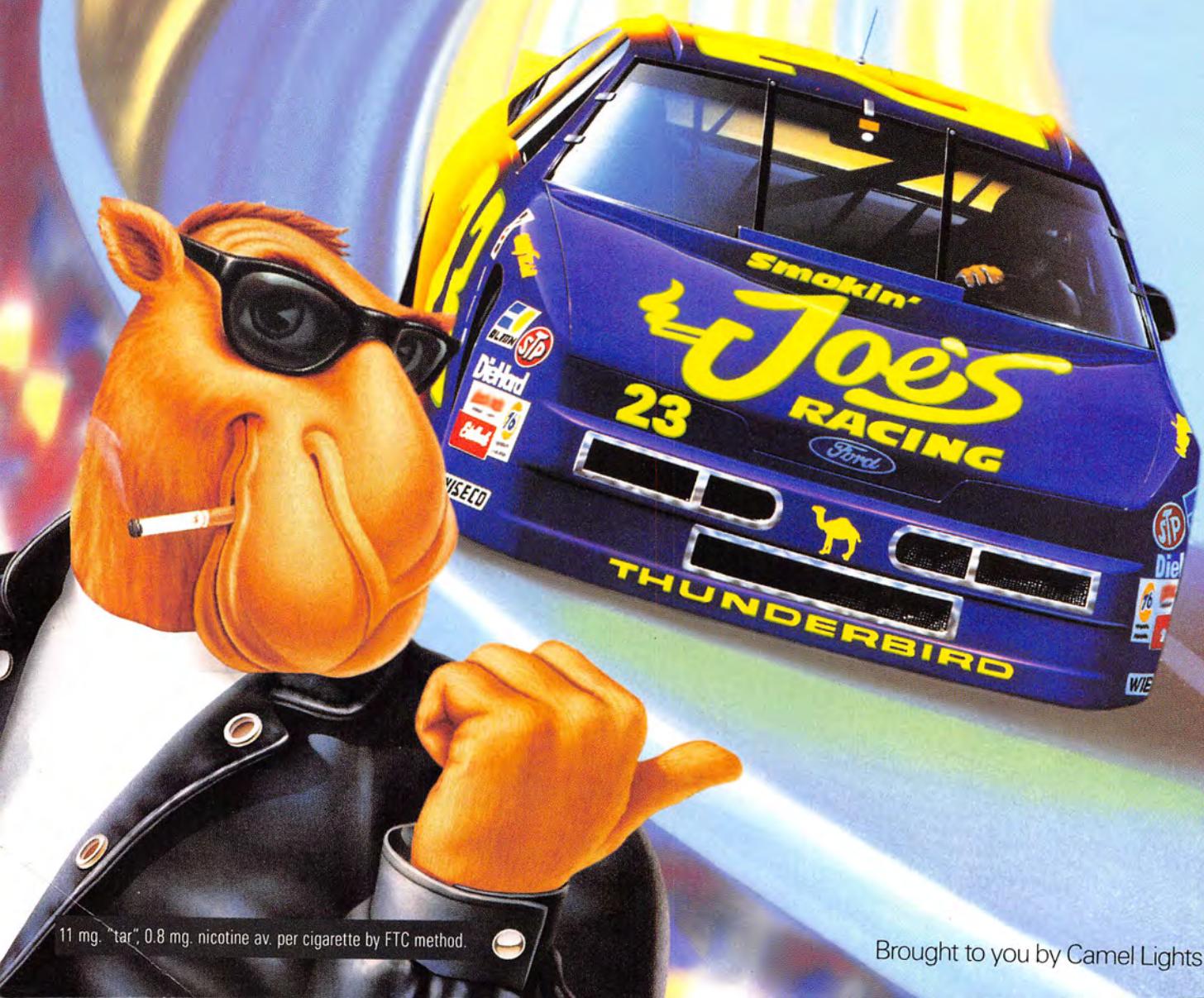


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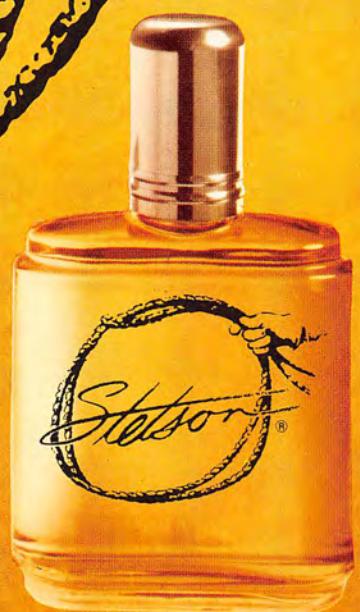


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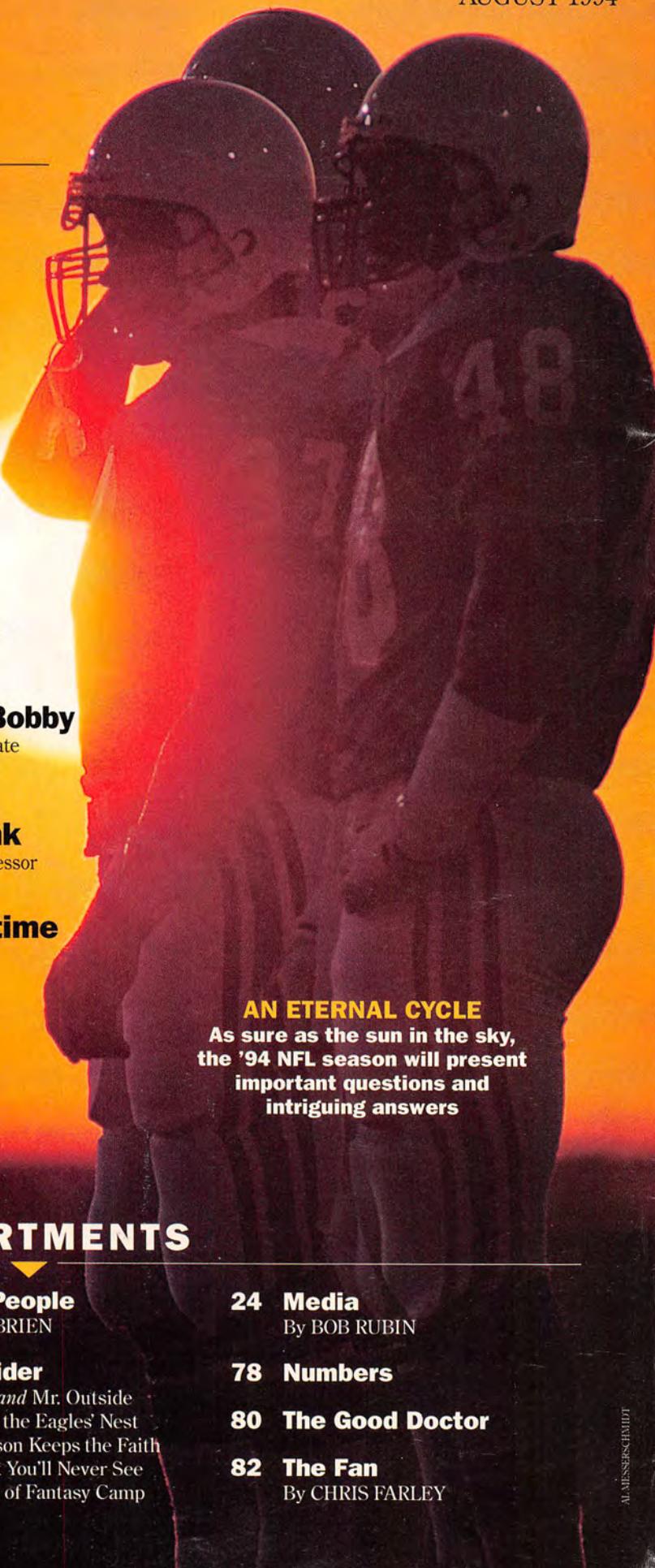
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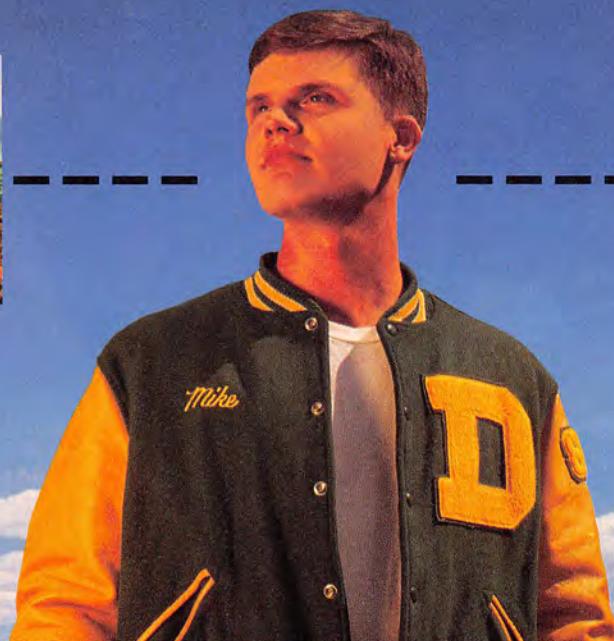
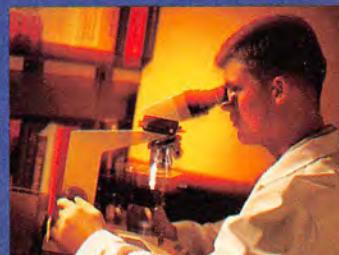
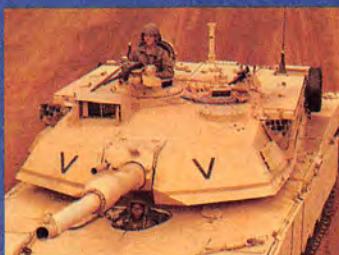
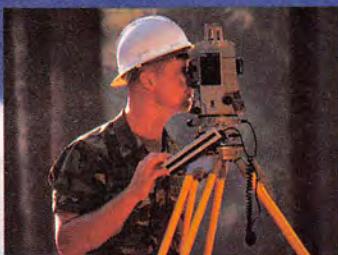
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By CHRIS FARLEY

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

THIS ISSUE WE WELCOME MIKE Ditka to the INSIDE SPORTS team of expert analysts and writers. Mike's knowledge of the game of football is beyond question. He was a college All-American, NFL rookie of the year with the Chicago Bears in 1961, the first tight end ever inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and one of only two men to earn a Super Bowl ring as a player, assistant coach, and head coach. And as a studio commentator for NBC, Ditka's insights and no-nonsense style have won him new praise.

His father, a railroad worker, taught him the importance of loyalty and pride in his work, two qualities that have been keys to his success. Ditka is the ultimate competitor.

Ditka never has been shy about offering his opinions. Senior associate editor John Hareas and I recently got together with Mike to get his thoughts on a number of subjects covered in this issue: the offseason developments in Dallas (see page 36), the upcoming NFL season (page 44), and Chris Zorich, his second-round draft choice in 1991 (page 54). In this meeting Mike also discussed other topics, including the possibility of his return to coaching. "I don't think it'll ever happen," he said. "I was in the right place at the right time for the team that I was supposed to coach. I thought I was right for the Bears, and they were right for me—in a sense, I became the Bears, and that probably became my downfall. I've scared a lot of people for some reason. They think I'm hard to work with."

Speaking of tough subjects—I asked how Marv Levy and the Buffalo Bills can turn it around mentally after going 0-4 in the Super Bowl. "I'd be proud as hell," Mike shot right back. "I'd just be proud to say, 'Hey, you know if we lose four Super Bowls in a row, we're the only team that

can do that. You know why? Because damn it, we're the only ones that have been there the last four years."

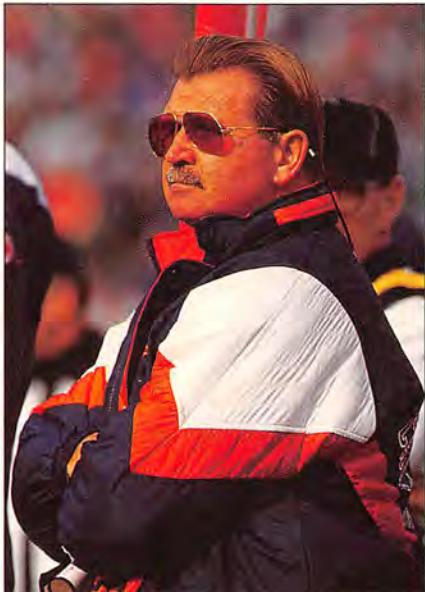
What does an NFL coach run into these days when he's trying to build a team while dealing with the "new guard" of owners? "I can remember when I first came to the Bears, and the press said it was Ditka's draft," Mike said. "You can't believe how many people that made mad within the organization. I actually had nothing to do with the draft, you know, but after the picks are made, what good was it going to do after the fact to say, 'Well, I didn't want that guy?' I've got to coach him and make the best I can out of it, but it's become an owner thing now."

Of course, no conversation with Ditka is complete without his take on Buddy Ryan, who was hired as head coach of the Arizona Cardinals this year despite his sideline swing at Oilers offensive coordinator Kevin

Gilbride last season. This can't be good, can it, or am I wrong? "No, you're not wrong," Ditka said. "We all do things that aren't right, but the shame of that is that if Buddy had hit him, Kevin would have knocked the shit out of him."

"Hey, listen, it got him a job. Maybe every assistant coach ought to go out and punch somebody and get a head coaching job."

Yes, we're very pleased to have Mike Ditka on the INSIDE SPORTS team. ■



Ditka: What you see is what you get, no holds barred.

Jerry L. Croft, Publisher

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Business & Editorial Office: Inside Sports, 990 Grove St., Evanston, IL 60201-4370, 708/491-6440

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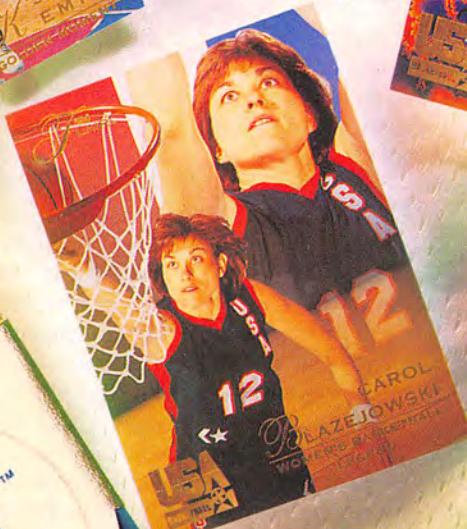
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• SHAWN KEMP • TIM HARDAWAY • LARRY JOHNSON

*Is the two-point conversion a good idea for the NFL?***Yes**

DAN REEVES SAYS WE DON'T NEED more offense, just close games. I would say this to Dan: We may not need more offense, but we need more touchdowns. The evidence speaks very, very clearly. When you have virtually 50% of your teams scoring fewer than two touchdowns a game, you've got a problem.

A lot of attention has been focused on the two-point conversion because it's unique, but the real concept had to do with creating the incentive to go for touchdowns rather than kicking field goals. The committee wanted to approach the solution through the kicking game. We moved the kickoff back to the 30 to create better field position, we spotted missed field goal attempts at the spot of the kick rather than the spot of the snap, and we implemented the two-point conversion, putting the ball on the 2-yard line rather than the three because it would give you a very legitimate chance to score two points. That extra yard down there becomes rather significant—you can still run

the ball from the two.

Now, take yourself out to the 30 or 32 and, as a coach, look at what amounts to a 50-yard field goal attempt. If



Chiefs coach MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER has been a member of the NFL rules committee for the past eight years.

it's fourth-and-two or -three, many of us feel we can convert that first down. I'd be more inclined to take my chances converting and giving myself an opportunity to score eight points than I would be to try a field goal that gives the opponent the ball at the 40 with only 60 yards to go if I miss.

What do you do when you're down by one at the end of the game? There's virtual unanimity among coaches: We would kick the extra point to tie the game and send it into overtime, as opposed to going for the two. But beyond that, I see a number of possibilities. For example, if we find the conversion percentage from two yards is 50%, you might well go for it on the very first play after you score your first touchdown—if you fail then, [you can try it] after your second touchdown, and the percentages are that you'd still have 14 points.

There was serious concern about spotting the ball on the two instead of the three, but the idea was, let's create an incentive for an eight-point play. Probably it won't be used frequently early on, but as the regular season goes on, if there's some data to suggest you might be able to make it 50% of the time or more, it'll take place more frequently.

One of my points of opposition in the past—my singular objection, quite frankly—was that as coaches we're going to get second-guessed if we have the two-point conversion. And quite frankly, that concern still exists. But I finally was persuaded by the fact that in the college ranks, they have very specific information as to when you should go for two; it's something you can prepare for, and it becomes a matter of who executes better.

The second-guessing is still going to be there, but so what else is new in our business? That's the nature of our game. ■

No

EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE DONE TO HELP the offense, but I think the public couldn't care less about scoring points. It wants to see a close game. Did people enjoy the playoff game we lost 44-3 to the 49ers last year? I'm sure the 49ers did, but did the general public?

I'd like to know the exact reason the league is putting in the two-point conversion. They say the public wants it, but the public wanted instant replay and didn't get it. The league says it will promote comebacks, but Buffalo didn't need the two-point conversion in its big comeback in the playoffs against Houston in '92. Eight points had nothing to do with it.

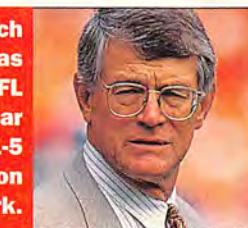
All I heard was it would make it more interesting if you were down by eight or down by 11. I don't know how many times last year teams were down by eight or 11 at the end of the game, but it was probably a small percentage. And if we're going to have two points, why do we have two points *and* sudden death, which is more exciting than two points?

I don't think the two-point conversion will be much of a factor except at the end of the game—and if I'm down by a point, I'm sure I'd kick the extra point and go for overtime. I think most coaches will do it that way, unless you have somebody who's out of the playoffs and wants to win it right then. I guess if you're a team that's not fighting for a playoff spot, you could put that possibility on the "pro" side of the argument. I'm not that way. I hope to be fighting for a playoff spot.

I don't understand why we would create a situation where you have substitution problems offensively and defensively. Offensively, you've got to make a decision, and there's going to be confusion. Are you going to have your extra-point team in there? Your regular offense? Your goal-line offense? Three wide receivers? Four? You've got the same substitution problems defensively. They say they'll give you plenty of time to adjust your defense before they let the offense snap the ball, but if you don't have the right personnel you may have to waste a timeout that's very valuable.

What upset me more than anything was that the coaches didn't even get a chance to discuss the rules changes. We thought we'd get a chance, but we weren't even in the room when the owners voted. You'd like to have the ability to express yourself, but they own the teams. They can do what they want.

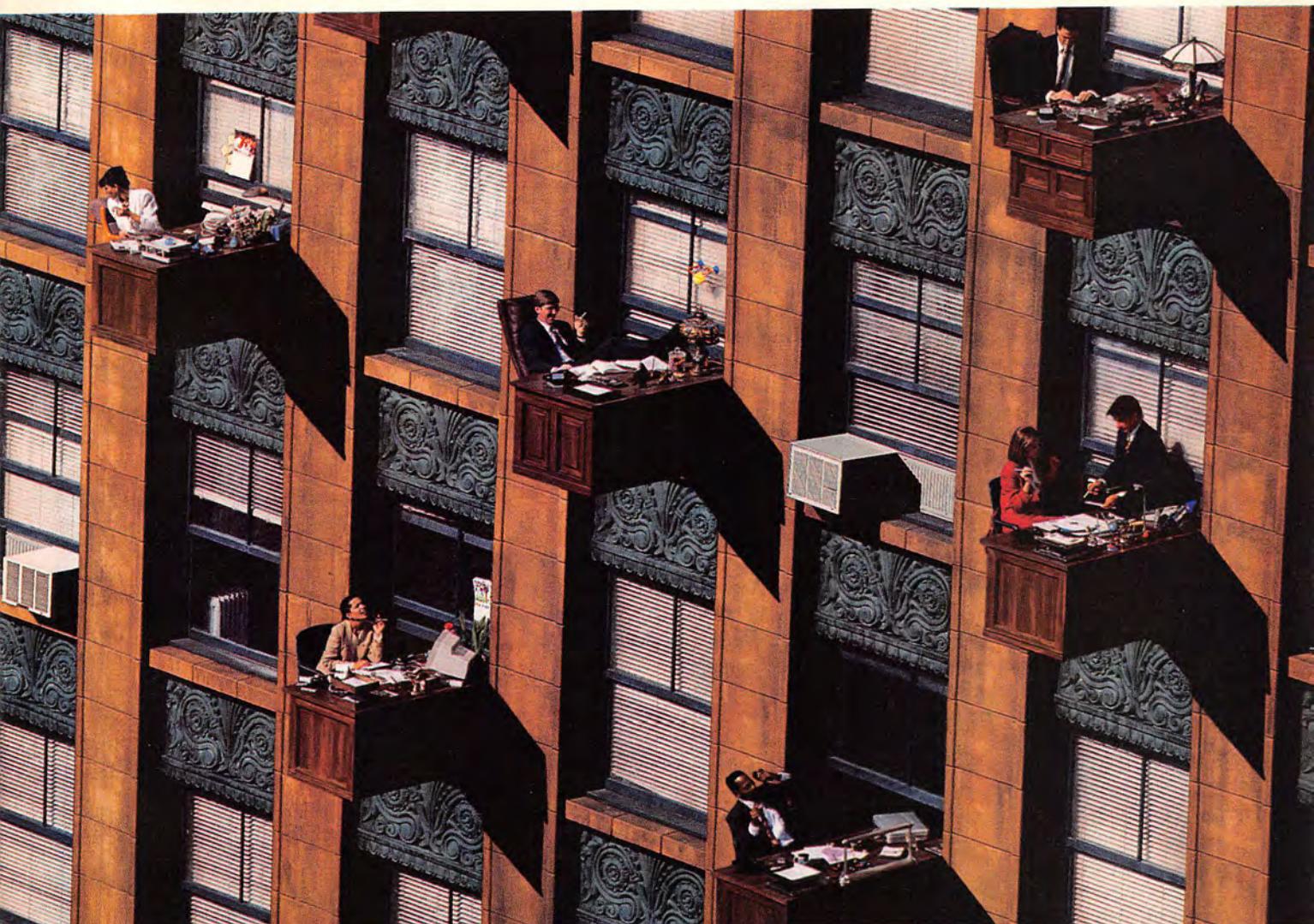
I polled the coaches the next day. I asked, "How many of you wouldn't have voted for this?" and there's no question a huge majority raised their hands. Why would we vote for something that in effect will take up a small percentage of the time but create a lot of problems? It's not like our game isn't a good one. In terms of ratings, football is tops. We weren't given an explanation. The two-point conversion was just voted in, and we were told, "Here it is." ■



Giants coach DAN REEVES was named 1993 NFL coach of the year after going 11-5 in his first season in New York.

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By JEFFREY LYONS

Many Hits and No Errors



Jeffrey Lyons

DANNY GLOVER never will look at a baseball game in quite the same way again. Glover recently completed shooting on the remake of the 1952 baseball movie **"Angels in the Outfield"** (Walt Disney Co.), in which he plays George Knox, manager of a California club thrust into pennant contention with a little heavenly help. Now when the native and resident of San Francisco watches a Giants game, he finds himself looking in at San Francisco manager Dusty Baker in the dugout as much as at the action on the field.

"I look at how he moves, and I think of things I should've done in the movie," says Glover. He's particularly impressed by a major league manager's role as a motivator. "When you have athletes just going out there and exercising their physical gifts, that's one thing. But when you have a manager getting them to go that imperceptible extra step, that's great."

Glover's ascent to Hollywood stardom has been by large leaps rather than imperceptible steps. Since he quit his job as an employee of the city of San Francisco at the end of 1977 to pursue acting full-time, his rise has been meteoric. He has achieved both popular and critical success in films such as the "Lethal Weapon" series, in which he plays Mel Gibson's reluctant police partner; "The Color Purple," in which he gave a titanic performance as the abusive husband of Whoopi Goldberg; and the "Lonesome Dove" TV miniseries. But despite his success, the 47-year-old actor is as he seems on screen: amiable, forthright, and honest. And, appropriately for his newest role, he's a lifelong baseball fan.

"I hadn't put on a baseball uniform since I was 14," he says, "but I followed the game. From the time I was 10 in 1957 until Hank Aaron retired in 1976, I knew every one of his statistics." Indeed, in the underrated Vietnam action drama "Batt 21," in which Glover plays a spotter pilot trying to

rescue downed flyer Gene Hackman behind enemy lines, Glover wears an Atlanta Braves hat in tribute to Hammerin' Hank.

"I was a quiet kid," he says. "I liked to think of myself as quietly going about what I had to do with no fanfare, the way Aaron did his job." Glover says his favorite pitcher was Warren Spahn, another Brave—which might seem unusual for a kid growing up in the City by the Bay. "I was actually a Hank Aaron fan, more than having any favorite team," Glover explains. "When the Giants came to town in 1958, I began to see their games. I'd gone to some of the [Pacific Coast League] Seals games with my father, but he's a Dodgers fan, because of Jackie Robinson."

One of the hallmarks of Glover's career has been the incredible amount of quality work he's done. Even "Angels in the Outfield," presumably aimed more at entertaining than inspiring, fits comfortably in that category. "It's about just being a human being," he says. "You always find some underlying message. The wonderful thing about what we do is finding the little things—developing this character to make him a little bit more human. I want to bring all elements of the world together through my work. I can see why people who have different views have a difficult time getting together, but people with the same views should embrace each other."

Glover's commitment to his profession extends to his preparation for roles. He even used to go on 10-day fasts before shooting began to achieve the proper mindset. "Most of preparing is getting into a spiritual way of falling into the proper frame of mind," he says. "For 'Angels in the Outfield' I rode a stationary bike every day. I also found there's something about the uniform, of coming out to the ballpark [the movie was filmed in Oakland's Alameda County Stadium] before shooting. It really changes your whole persona when you come out to the ballpark early."

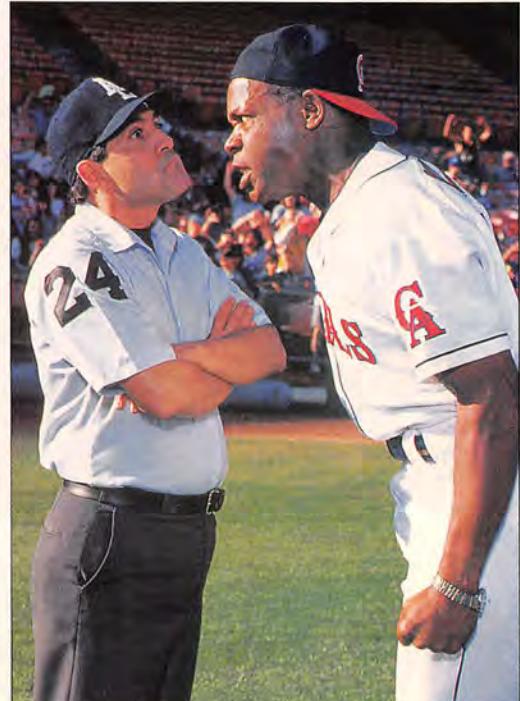
Former Oakland A's stars Carney Lansford, Steve McCatty, Wayne Gross, and Mitchell Page worked as technical advisors on the movie, and Glover came away impressed with their attitude. "They

still have fun playing the game," he says.

These days the movie star regularly attends Giants and A's games and catches many more games on television. "TV games are addictive," he says. "At the ballpark, you can look away for a moment and miss a pitch, and you don't get any replays."

He also has gotten to spend some time in the dugout. "I can understand how fascinating it is, because ballplayers seem like very ordinary people," he says. "They're not extraordinary in their size or weight. They seem like people who sit around and have fun."

Well, to a 6'4", solidly built former tight end and hurdler such as Glover, athletes such as Jose Canseco, Randy Johnson, or



Acting tough: "When a manager gets his players to go the extra step, that's great."

Juan Gonzalez actually might appear "ordinary." But there is nothing ordinary about the life and career of Danny Glover. From huge box-office hits to small, intense films of substance, to powerful stage roles, he has already left an indelible mark on his craft.

And unlike the players he manages in his new movie, he did it without the help of any angel. ■

Movie critic JEFFREY LYONS' reflections on sports and films appear every month.

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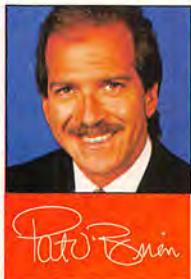
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INSIDE PEOPLE

By PAT O'BRIEN

He's "Tim"—But Not as in "Timid"



TIM McCARVER IS A true man. He knows the difference between an '87 and an '89 in a cabernet, and likes big, expensive cigars. He has a beautiful wife, beautiful daughters—he's even had a stadium named after him. He takes his time when he picks a restaurant, will eat a hotdog in public, appreciates a good hotel lobby, and has survived a major earthquake and talked about it with Al Michaels. He can small-talk but would rather discuss Churchill, loathes Robert Ludlum but can quote Gene Fowler, knows when to keep his mouth shut, and admits it when he doesn't. Steve Carlton talks to him. And, well, he just may be the quintessential voice in baseball today.

I know all this because I was one of McCarver's roommates for four years when CBS Sports had the baseball contract. Those are four years I will cherish, (1) because I love baseball, and (2) because I love Tim McCarver. And while I know all of the above about him, I also know that if he's reading this, he's angry. You see, McCarver doesn't like to be called "McCarver." It's "Tim." But he answers his phone "McCarver." Go figure.

Here are a few tips about Tim. Don't (1) call him "McCarver"—we already covered that; (2) offer him your left hand—no way; (3) tell him you'd like to "share" something with him—sorry; (4) invite him and Deion Sanders to the same picnic where there's ice water; or (5) call him "intense."

In fact, I ruined a day with Paul McCartney by calling Tim "intense." I was in London, about to spend the afternoon with my lifetime idol, when I received a message that Tim McCarver was suing me for libel. I heard this from his agent, who said I couldn't reach my good friend McCarver for two days but recommended I surround myself with legal help. All I could think of was that we were going into the World Series, and all anybody would be talking about was McCarver v. O'Brien. (I wondered if he'd call it Tim v. Pat.)

Eventually, of course, I discovered I'd bitten into a practical joke. Don Imus, a popular syndicated radio talk show host based in New York, had spent some time on his show one morning recounting a story I had told him that happened to mention how intense McCarver was about some things. Tim was just evening the score.

I've always felt I needed the proper revenge. After all, a ruined day with Paul McCartney? Yes, I love Tim McCarver.

Baseball has changed a bit this year, and as preparation for the postseason I sat Tim down for some straight talk—with McCarver, there's no other kind—about the national pastime. We began with what changes the new TV contract with ABC—which enjoys McCarver's services—and NBC brought to baseball.

"I think it's a major change, as far as baseball is concerned: only 12 games on TV. ABC has six games, and NBC has six games. The biggest change is going to be postseason play with the wild card, best three out of five, then the regular playoffs, then, of course, the World Series. You know, though, I think the realignment is going to work. There are going to be more fans in September that are going to have more teams to root for."

However, McCarver believes both leagues need to make an adjustment in their schedules. Under the current format, a team plays either 12 or 13 games against division and non-division opponents alike; a team in the AL or NL West therefore plays less than a quarter of its games against its division rivals and the rest outside the division. "I think it would be an embarrassment to baseball—a Western division champion with a .500 record," McCarver says. "That would be an embarrassment, but that could happen since [West Division teams] are going to play more than 120 games outside the division."

What about the early-season theories—mine included—that the ball is juiced?

"There are many contributing reasons why there are more home runs hit early. For one, the middle relief is deplorable. Expansion is part of the reason for the lack of lefthanders in the middle. Then there's the inability of a pitcher to get a high strike. The umpires are widening the plate—they're giving the pitcher the ball off the plate but not anything from the belt up. This has been the trend for the last three to five years."

You see, McCarver won't get into an argument that's not real. That's why he didn't beat the crap out of Sanders when "Prime Time" dumped ice water on him twice for some preschool reason, and that's why Tim will never argue my friendship with Sanders. If you're his friend, he supports you. Even after Steve Carlton made those purported remarks about Jews and Russians and who knows what, Tim, ever the friend—and possibly correct—is there to repair some of the damage.

"The remarks sounded hateful in print but when Lefty made the remarks—and I'm talking about knowing this guy for 30 years—I don't think he made them in a hateful fashion. I'm not defending the comments, but I'm defending the man. In no way is the man a bigot, a racist, or an anti-Semite, period."

This is why we all should defend Tim



STEVE FENN/ABC

McCarver still enjoys his job, and remember: He who laughs, lasts.

McCarver. He's loyal, he's good, and despite what the critics claim, he doesn't talk too much. In fact, he should talk more, because there's a new generation out there—and I, for one, want them to learn it from Tim. Tim actually has fun in his job, and you know the saying: He who laughs, lasts.

In my book, the man has only one fault. He ruined my weekend with Paul McCartney. ■

PAT O'BRIEN's *insightful profiles of sports personalities appear monthly.*



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Update

The Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside of the Diamond

HERE'S A TRIVIA QUESTION for you: Who's the only living Yankee who never has been invited back to an old-timers game at Yankee Stadium? Too many to choose from? Let's narrow it down: Who's the only Yankee to pitch in two World Series and not be invited back? Still haven't got it? Try this one: Who's the only Yankee ever to pitch in two World Series, blow his

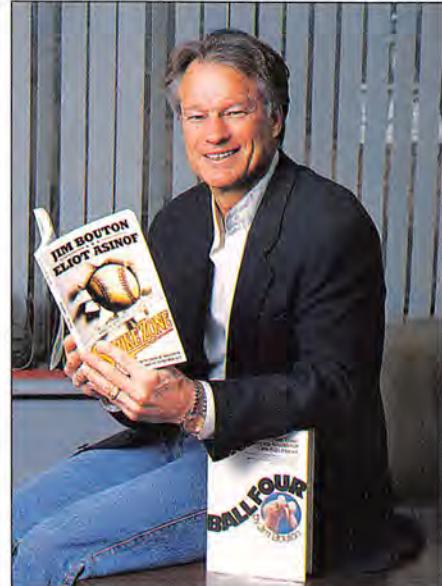
arm out, make a comeback as a knuckleball pitcher, write the most influential baseball book of the past four decades, alienate about half of baseball's Old Guard, have a successful life after baseball, and not get invited to the Yankees old-timers games?

If you haven't said "Jim Bouton" by now, you must work for either the Yankees or major league baseball, because both organizations have tried hard to forget, if not deny, Bouton's existence. "In a way," he says, nibbling on a salad at a restaurant near his Teaneck, N.J., home, "I'm happy with the situation. I mean, if they invited me back it would destroy the uniqueness of it.

"When they line up all the players from the last Yankees pennant winners"—ex-Yankees invariably refer to the '64, pre-George Steinbrenner team as the "last pennant winners"—"I'm sort of conspicuous by my absence. It's kind of like the old Air Force movies, you know, when a pilot is being buried. The rest of the squadron flies by, leaving his slot in the formation open. That's kind

of the way it is for me, only it would be nice if they'd leave the space open for me. The Bouton zone, or something."

Much of the baseball establishment has maintained a Bouton-free zone since his apocalyptic "Ball Four" was published nearly 25 years ago. "It's unbelievable to me how many people are still pissed at me for saying what everyone knew was going on in the first place," he says. "Every writer knew that ballplayers were no angels, that we partied a bit and womanized and occasionally had our minds on something besides the game. The whole message of the book was that ballplayers are as human as fans are. The fans didn't seem to mind hearing that, but the writers did, and so did the players."



ANTHONY NESTE

Bouton: "Players have revealed far more shocking things than I ever dreamed of."

He pauses, sobered at the recent fortunes of some of his teammates. "Mickey—geez, what bad breaks," he says, referring to the death of Mantle's son and the former slugger's stint in the Betty Ford Clinic for alcohol abuse. "You

Business

Feathering the Eagles' Nest

AS A FOOTBALL VENUE, Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium is for the birds in more ways than one. The Eagles' home since 1971 has what many players insist is the worst artificial turf in the NFL. In addition, the stadium's configuration results in some seats so far from the field only fans with true eagle eyes can see who's carrying the football.

As team owner, Norman Braman hoped to change all that by opening day of the 1996 season. Late last year he proposed a new Eagles nest: an open-air park with 70,000 seats, 100 luxury boxes, and a grass field that would be user-friendly to Randall Cunningham's knees. Eagles Stadium would rise somewhere

within a screen pass of the Vet's South Philly location—and in a gesture of brotherly love toward city taxpayers, Braman would finance the estimated \$100 million in construction costs himself.

It all sounded great. Why, then, did Braman, who wasn't looking to sell his team and had rejected previous overtures, suddenly accept Hollywood filmmaker Jeffrey Lurie's offer of \$185 million for the Eagles in April?

Well, two months earlier, a feasibility study that never has been made public concluded that Braman had greatly underestimated the cost of his new stadium. Without public funding—a real long shot—it was a dead issue. Insiders say it was the deep disappointment over the news that led Braman to unload his prized NFL possession.

"Braman got depressed when he realized he wasn't as rich as [Washington Redskins owner]

Jack Kent Cooke," says a source close to the Eagles. "For the first time, selling sounded good to him."

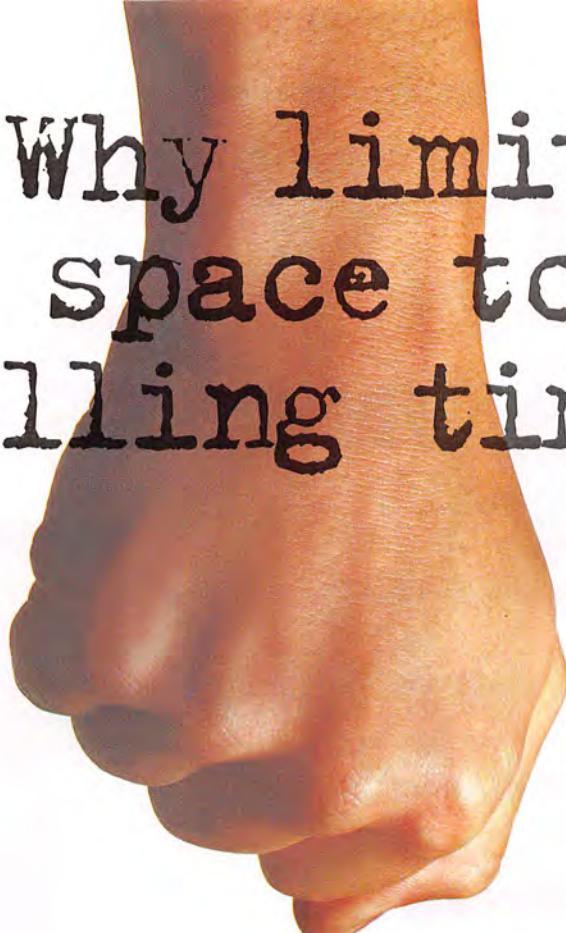
Neither Braman nor Lurie would comment on the situation, but the new owner is expected to be much more tolerant of both the Vet and the idea of co-habiting with baseball's Phillies (who reportedly would like their own 45,000-seat, baseball-only park but say they can't afford to build it without—you guessed it—city and state funds). Lurie probably will pester Philadelphia officials to install natural grass at the Vet. However, he's said to be a strong believer in fostering the relationship between teams and their cities, so insiders figure neither the Vet's poor sightlines nor the slim chance of getting a new facility in Philadelphia is likely to make Lurie yearn for the suburbs of New Jersey or Delaware.

"He's from Massachusetts, so he's seen the situation in Fox-

boro," says Eagles public relations director Ron Howard about the home of the New England (at one time Boston) Patriots—a venue situated more than 20 miles from downtown Boston and notorious for its poor access and parking. "He's impressed that the Vet is in city limits."

That's good news for Philadelphia's diehard football fans. For five years, the NBA's 76ers have flirted with the idea of moving across the Delaware River to Camden, N.J., and there were constant rumors that Braman was considering taking the Eagles out of the state one day, too. New ownership should allay those fears and assure that there will be three certainties in South Philly for several years to come: the smell of cheesesteaks in the air, the sound of Italian being spoken in the markets, and the sight of linebackers with wings on their helmets swooping down on quarterbacks.—Jeff Ryan

Why limit this space to just telling time?



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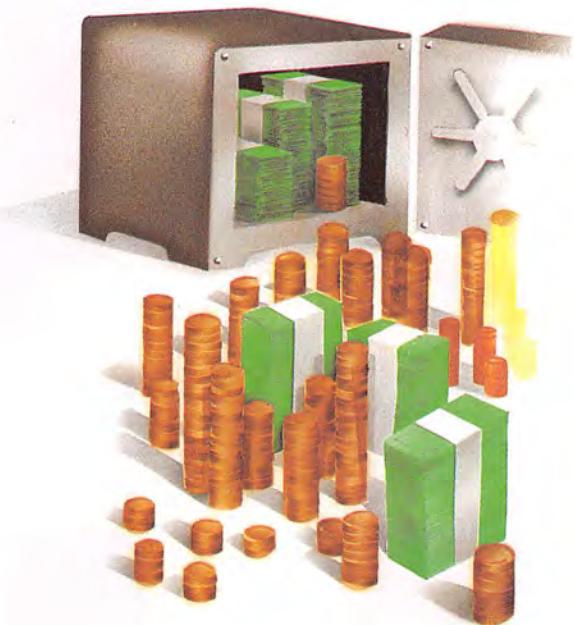
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will include confirmation of your player selections, contest rules and Ultimate Draft hotline details for trading and point and rank updates.

Scoring System

(Points are awarded on a game by game basis)

Yds Passing....a full 25 yds = 1 pt

Yds Rushing....a full 10 yds = 1 pt

Yds Receiving....a full 10 yds = 1 pt

Two Point Conversions....2 pts

Receptions....1 pt

TD Passes....6 pts

TDs Scored....6 pts

Field Goals....3 pts

Extra points....1 pt

Players earn points for any stats they are credited with - whether it be for passing, rushing, receiving or kicking - regardless of the position they play.

3. Trading Players / Weekly Updates

Starting, **Tuesday, Sept. 20**, call the Ultimate Draft hotline to trade players and/or hear your current point total and rank.

Key trading details (NOT a 1-900 number):

- You can make up to 6 trading calls and switch up to 3 players each time (maximum of 1 trading call per week).
- Players dropped must be replaced with a player from the same group.
- You can re-acquire players dropped in previous trades.

INSIDE
SPORTS

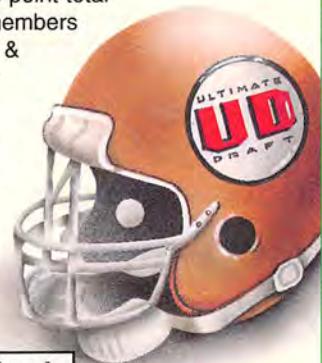


OPTIONAL

Form Your Own League

The league with the highest average point total wins **\$1,000 CASH**. Note: League members are also in the running for all weekly & grand prizes. *League requirements:*

- A minimum of 6 entries are required to form a league and all must be sent in the same envelope (write "League Entries" on envelope).
- Designate a commissioner and write their name in the space provided at the bottom of each entry ballot.



League entrants play for only \$25 each

Select ONE (1) player from each group below.

NOTE: Points (PTS) are based on 1993 statistics using the Ultimate Draft scoring system. Due to publishing deadlines, team designations may not reflect recent changes.

QB (01)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	QB (02)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	RB (03)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	RB (04)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	RB (05)	TEAM	GP	PTS.
1 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Aikman	DAL	14	227	1 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Bledsoe	NE	13	198	1 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Bettis	LA	16	235	1 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Allen	MIN	0	0	1 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Allen	KC	16	224
2 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Cunningham	PHL	4	81	2 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Beuerlein	PHO	14	239	2 <input type="checkbox"/> G. Brown	HOU	11	193	2 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Faulk	IND	0	0	2 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Bernstine	DEN	15	187
3 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Elway	DEN	16	327	3 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Erickson	TB	16	240	3 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Foster	PIT	9	174	3 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Kirby	MIA	16	237	3 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Brooks	WAS	16	164
4 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Favre	GB	16	274	4 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Esiason	NYJ	16	252	4 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Hampton	NYG	12	177	4 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Metcalf	CLE	16	208	4 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Brown	NO	13	127
5 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Hostetler	RAI	15	264	5 <input type="checkbox"/> J. George	ATL	12	153	5 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Johnson	NYJ	15	237	5 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Pegram	ATL	15	200	5 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Cobb	GB	12	105
6 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Kelly	BUF	16	253	6 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Mirer	SEA	16	238	6 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Sanders	DET	11	186	6 <input type="checkbox"/> L. Russell	NE	16	201	6 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Fenner	CIN	14	145
7 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Marino	MIA	5	103	7 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Montana	KC	11	170	7 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Smith	DAL	14	307	7 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Walker	PHL	16	235	7 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Harmon	SD	16	174
8 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Moon	MIN	15	286	8 <input type="checkbox"/> N. O'Donnell	PIT	16	223	8 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Thomas	BUF	16	254	8 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Warren	SEA	14	174	8 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Johnson	IND	13	144
9 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Young	SF	16	390	9 <input type="checkbox"/> P. Simms	NYG	16	216	9 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Watters	SF	13	225	9 <input type="checkbox"/> L. White	HOU	8	115	9 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Moore	PHO	15	160
REC (06)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	REC (07)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	REC (08)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	REC (09)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	KICKER (10)	TEAM	GP	PTS.
1 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Brown	RAI	16	247	1 <input type="checkbox"/> F. Barnett	PHL	4	34	1 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Givins	HOU	16	183	1 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Brooks	BUF	15	164	1 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Andersen	NO	16	117
2 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Carter	MIN	16	247	2 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Blades	SEA	16	198	2 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Green	PIT	15	187	2 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Coates	NE	16	167	2 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Carney	SD	16	124
3 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Irvin	DAL	16	264	3 <input type="checkbox"/> G. Clark	PHO	12	169	3 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Haynes	NO	15	174	3 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Davis	KC	16	185	3 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Christie	BUF	15	105
4 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Jeffires	HOU	15	177	4 <input type="checkbox"/> I. Fryar	MIA	16	195	4 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Jackson	CLE	15	166	4 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Ellard	LA	16	169	4 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Del Greco	HOU	16	126
5 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Miller	DEN	16	242	5 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Langhorne	IND	16	207	5 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Martin	NO	16	179	5 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Hawkins	TB	16	185	5 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Hanson	DET	16	130
6 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Reed	BUF	15	176	6 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Moore	DET	15	191	6 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Moore	NYJ	13	154	6 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Jackson	NYG	15	155	6 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Jacke	GB	16	128
7 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Rice	SF	16	351	7 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Proehl	PHL	16	199	7 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Pritchard	DEN	15	190	7 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Jones	SF	16	160	7 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Jaeger	RAI	15	132
8 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Rison	ATL	16	300	8 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Sharpe	DEN	16	235	8 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Taylor	SF	16	183	8 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Sanders	ATL	16	147	8 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Murray	PHL	14	122
9 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Sharpe	GB	16	306	9 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Slaughter	HOU	14	197	9 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Williams	PHL	16	193	9 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Waddle	CHI	15	105	9 <input type="checkbox"/> P. Stoyanovich	MIA	16	109

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know, he's never spoken to me since 'Ball Four.' I was at a book signing at his restaurant, and I heard he wouldn't show up because he heard I was coming.

"But, you know, the funny thing is that Mick and other players have since revealed far more shocking things about themselves than I ever would have dreamed of. It's almost like 'Ball Four' was therapy for them."

Whatever it was for players, "Ball Four" was a shock to the system for the sport; since its publication, baseball—and the way fans look at it—never has been the same. However, Bouton says he never entirely understood the fuss. "There are things you shouldn't have to have illusions

about to enjoy," he says. "I think I'd put baseball right at the top of that list."

Unlike so many ballplayers of his era, Bouton has had no trouble making the transition to ex-ballplayer. "I never believed when I was a kid that I'd make it to the big leagues," he says with a shrug. "As much as I loved the game, I never thought of it as my life. So it wasn't a major transition for me when I was out." Since retiring he's written several books, done some sportscasting, appeared in the Robert Altman cult-classic film "The Long Goodbye," starred in a TV series based on "Ball Four," and started a successful custom card business.

He's also found time to squeeze

in a few ball games as a semipro player. "It's small-town stuff," he says, "lots of spirit, lots of fun, a lot like the kind of thrill you got playing as a kid."

After one such game in the Berkshires, his wife introduced him to a fan. His name was Eliot Asinof, and he, too, had written a book about baseball that got some attention: "Eight Men Out," about the Black Sox scandal of 1919. Naturally, talk quickly turned to how one might go about putting in the fix today.

"I told Eliot I didn't think it would be possible to fix a game today," Bouton says, "because the players make too much money. I don't think the gamblers could afford them." But Asinof had an

ingenious idea: bribe the *umpire*. "So we evolved this novel from two points of view: Eliot's doing the ump, and I'm telling you what's going on in the pitcher's mind as he begins to figure out what's going on." The resulting collaboration, "Strike Zone," is one of the most eagerly anticipated baseball books of 1994.

Viking Penguin plans to give the book a major push this summer. That means a national publicity tour, autograph sessions, perhaps even a book party at Mickey Mantle's restaurant?

"Hmmm, yeah, well, that's not a bad idea," Bouton says. If Mickey shows up? "I'll put my hand out and say 'Hi, Mick. It's been too long!'" —Allen Barra

My Life

Bobby Allison Keeps the Faith

THE ROUTINE FOLLOWED BY stock car legend Bobby Allison hasn't changed much in the last 33 years. On almost any Sunday during the racing season, you can find him at a familiar place: the speedway. Lately, however, Allison's presence at the track has become less a matter of habit and more a show of faith—in God, and in the sport that has defined him and his family.

From the '60s through the '80s, Allison established himself as one of the premier drivers in NASCAR and as patriarch of a popular racing family from little Hueytown, Ala. (population 15,000). However, his fortunes began to turn in 1988, when a near-fatal crash during a race at Pocono International

Raceway in Long Pond, Pa., abruptly ended his driving career. Still, after two years of rehabilitation, he returned to the speedway as a car owner.

Then in August 1992, Allison's youngest son, Clifford, was killed in an accident during a Busch Grand National race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. Eleven months later, his remaining son, Davey, died after a helicopter crash at Alabama's Talladega Superspeedway. The most recent blow came in February, when Bobby's longtime friend Neil Bonnett was killed in a wreck during a practice run before the Daytona 500.

Nevertheless, you still can find Bobby at the speedway—even though the Winston Cup team he owns began the 1994 season without a primary sponsor. "Racing has been my life," says the 56-year-old Allison. "We've had so many good times. What I have to keep focused on is that racing took Clifford, racing took Neil, but

the helicopter took Davey.

"It was such an incredibly horrible situation for me and [wife] Judy, but at the same time, I had to look at the overall picture and say, 'This [Davey's crash] was not a racing accident.' It could have happened anywhere. It didn't make it easier to take, but it certainly did define that it was not a result of racing."

Sometimes, however, not even that rationale eases Allison's pain. Then, religious faith provides strength and comfort. "The Roman Catholic faith has helped me because I can get down on my knees and say, 'Good Lord, help me,'" Allison says.

Early in Allison's career, stock car racing represented a path to a better life, and as his victory total grew, so did his legend. "Racing was the opportunity for a young man without the polished talent



Allison has lost much during his racing career but hasn't surrendered.

and without the big finances to work hard and do well," says Allison, who retired with 84 Winston Cup wins. "In fact, I said real early on to my mother, 'Mom, I can work hard on this race car and earn as much as I could working at the gas station. And I have a lot more fun racing!'"

The hopeful and confident tone of those early years has been muted by tragedy, but Allison hasn't been defeated. "Auto racing is a reflection of life in general," he says. "You must do the best you can every day. You have a bad day, and tomorrow you've got to do your best to have a good day. Also, though, there's the reality that yesterday we had a good day, and today we're having a bad day."

—William Wagner



The sport Allison loves wasn't always a source of pain: "I said real early on, 'Mom, I can earn as much with this race car as I could working at the gas station—and I have a lot more fun racing!'"

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B A L F O U R

Trends

Here's One Hat Trick You'll Never See

LAST JANUARY, AS THE second half of Super Bowl XXVIII began, Buffalo was clinging to a 13-6 lead over the Dallas Cowboys, but when the final gun sounded the Bills once again had lost their shirts—literally. Troy Aikman and company marched triumphantly into their locker room to receive shirts and hats by Logo 7, a major NFL licensee, that proclaimed them Super Bowl champs. Meanwhile, hundreds of Bills Super Bowl championship shirts and hats produced in the event—unlikely as it may have been—that Buffalo won the big game were, for the fourth straight year, quietly packed and taken away.

In an era when kids now invest in baseball cards rather than collect them—preferring the rare mistake to regulation cards of their favorite player—those limited runs that herald titles for such recent championship losers as the Bills, the Duke Blue Devils, and the Atlanta Braves are highly coveted. Don't get your hopes up, though: These collectibles generally end up in the rag bin or with charities, because the leagues forbid the numerous licensees from selling material containing false information.

While sportswear company executives admit that some shirts usually "disappear," most companies won't risk offending the leagues—or the losers, who an insider says are "real sensitive" about the souvenirs. For example, Logo 7 destroyed most of its leftover 200 Bills Super Bowl champion hats and shirts. Among major merchandise companies, only Starter acknowledges selling the leftovers. Ian Gomar, Starter's marketing vice president, says most shirts are given to underprivileged children but some are sold overseas, where "people want anything in English and anything to do with sports."

Still, the black market must be tempting for a man such as Dan Smith, president of Spectator Sports Services, the NCAA event concessionaire, who shelled out

for 1,200 hats and 1,200 shirts from Starter (at \$8.50 a shirt wholesale) for both teams in last April's finals. However, Smith, who loses money on the deal but keeps the NCAA happy, is a man of forceful integrity. When Duke lost to Arkansas, he rejected frantic fan offers of \$150 apiece for Duke championship shirts. In fact, when President Clinton's aides inquired beforehand about obtaining Arkansas shirts even if the Razorbacks lost, Smith replied: "If Arkansas wins, I'd be happy to accommodate the president."

A spokesman for Trench, a smaller NFL licensee, says firmly: "The [merchandise] can't see the light of day. We don't even give them to charity." The Bills' loss was emotionally painful for that company—its retail stores are in Buffalo—but the financial sting was softer. Trench printed just a

Logo 7 has to cover every eventuality—even a Bills Super Bowl win.

few dozen Bills-as-winners sample shirts, so its monetary losses were minimal.

Logo 7 won't start up the machines even if the Bills are losing by 20 in the fourth quarter. "But when they're done, we move as fast as Michael Irvin," White says. In 1991, when Scott Norwood's field goal attempt in the closing seconds could have given Buffalo a 22-20 win over the New York Giants, Logo 7 was ironing the final score on by hand. "We were running low on twos," White says. "I was really nervous."

White actually was crouched



BOB HUFF

next to the Bills cheerleaders ready to pass out shirts when Norwood's kick missed. Saying, "Sorry, girls," he jumped up and ran to the other side, where Lawrence Taylor donned a "Giants 20-19" shirt as he walked into the locker room.

And if the Bills return this season, Logo 7 will prepare a fresh round of merchandise. "The year you don't do it," White says, "they'll win."—Stuart Miller

Update

The Father of Fantasy Camp

IN OCTOBER OF 1981, Randy Hundley was a man without a future. Dallas Green, newly named general manager of the Chicago Cubs, had just relieved Hundley of his duties as a roving instructor and scout for the Cubs, ending an association with the team that dated back to 1966 and leaving the former catcher with a sense of betrayal. Even worse, Hundley had no idea how he was going to support his wife and four children.

"I was scared to death," says Hundley, now 51. "I didn't know what the heck I was going to do. I had put my whole life into baseball."

With nothing to lose, Hundley began to develop what at first seemed a nutty idea. He gambled on the notion that adults would be willing to reach deep into their pockets for the chance to play baseball with former major-leaguers at "fantasy" camps.

"We thought it was a good idea, but we were skeptical as to whether or not we could get enough people to participate," Hundley says. "I remember [one-

time Cubs shortstop] Don Kessinger saying, 'There's no way—but if you get enough people, count me in.'"

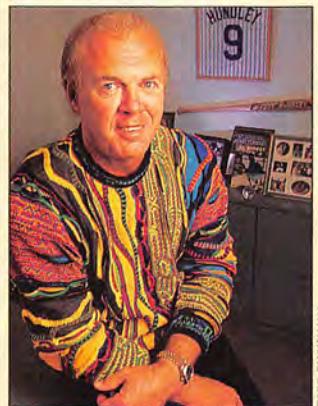
Hundley's intuition proved astute. Undeterred by the \$2,395 price tag, 66 fans signed up for the inaugural camp in January 1983, a week-long affair at the San Francisco Giants' spring training facility in Scottsdale, Ariz. Hundley even had to turn some people away. Suddenly, his future was golden.

"After the first camp, I realized we had a business," Hundley says, "so I immediately started making plans for a second." Now, 11 years later, he's sitting atop a small empire. In 1993 his company—Randy Hundley's Baseball Camps Inc.—staged 10 camps, some conducted in association with major league clubs. "I want people who go to a fantasy camp to be able to walk away and say, 'That's the greatest thing I've ever done,'" he says.

Beyond the business aspect, the camps provide a more personal benefit for Hundley: They enable him to maintain the ties with baseball—in particular, with his former Cubs teammates—that he thought had been severed. Kessinger, Ron Santo, Glenn Beckert, Fergie Jenkins, and Jim Hickman are among the Cubs of the late '60s and early '70s who have taken part in

Hundley's camps. And while those Cubs teams never succeeded in collecting a World Series ring, the players formed lasting friendships. The camps only strengthen their bond.

"Sometimes I kind of have to pinch myself and realize that after all these years we're still friends," says Hundley, who

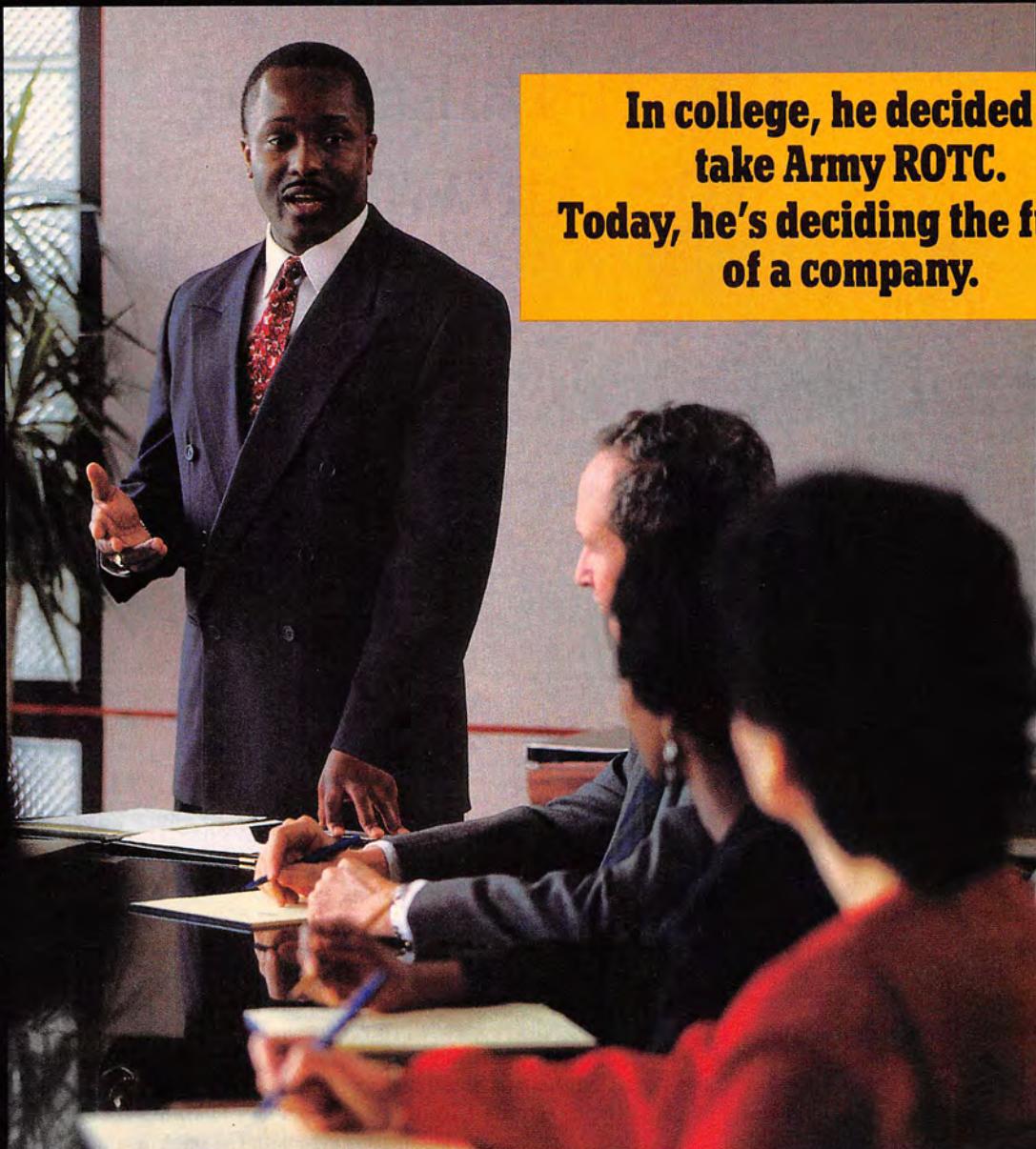


Hundley's "nutty idea" grew into an industry of nostalgia.

retired as a player in 1977 after 14 big-league seasons. "The people who come to the camps see how close we are and how much we like each other."

"It's fun to be able to get the uniform on and share what baseball is all about. The campers go away with a much greater appreciation of the game than they had before."—W.W.

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By BOB RUBIN

Trash-Talkers of the Airwaves

ALL DENNIS Erickson had done in his first four years as coach of the University of Miami football team was compile a 53-7 record, win two national championships, and finish third in the Associated Press rankings twice. But when the Hurricanes had an "off" season in '94, going 9-3 and winding up 15th in the rankings—numbers that would have produced euphoria at the vast majority of schools—Erickson instantly became a bum. *The guy can't coach. Get rid of him.*

Don Shula is merely the winningest coach in NFL history, a man of towering achievements and immense stature in pro football. But when the Miami Dolphins suffered a few mediocre seasons after years of success, suddenly Shula was senile. *The game has passed him by. He can't coach anymore. Thanks for the memories, Don, but don't let the door slam behind you.*

Or so said callers to the sports radio talk shows in Miami. Such notions are, of course, idiotic, but unfortunately they are all too typical of the blather that pollutes the nation's airwaves these days. In recent years, sports talk shows, on both radio and TV, have grown like algae in a pool—and too often they're about as appealing.

There's nothing wrong with expressing strong opinions and debating hot issues. That's a large part of the appeal of sports. But there have to be standards—certain measures of fairness, perspective, civility, and thoughtfulness. Some talk shows meet these standards. Unfortunately, they're the exception.

In pursuit of ratings, most cater to the worst elements of sports fans' mentali-

More often than not, sports radio talk shows degenerate into a frenzy of negativity, bias, and ill-considered opinions—from fans and hosts alike.

ties. As is true in newspapers and newscasts, sensationalism, scandal, controversy, and negativity sell, and when they don't exist on their own, the hosts manufacture them. Granted, some of those hosts simply are bozos, but many know better and are cynically manipulating and exploiting their audience. It's show biz, and as Cole Porter wrote, anything goes.

The phenomenon isn't confined to sports. Look what has happened in general to talk shows on TV. At one time, Phil Donahue and Oprah Winfrey dealt thoughtfully with meaningful topics. Now those formerly moderate hosts must resort to "Lesbian Nuns on Heroin" to compete with all the other trash-talk offerings out there. Moreover, witness the proliferation of raw-meat programs such as "Hard Copy" and "Inside Edition," each trying to out-sleaze the other. Television news magazine shows, too, focus increasingly on the lurid, as exemplified by their fascination with serial killers. I'll let the sociologists figure out what that says

about the American psyche.

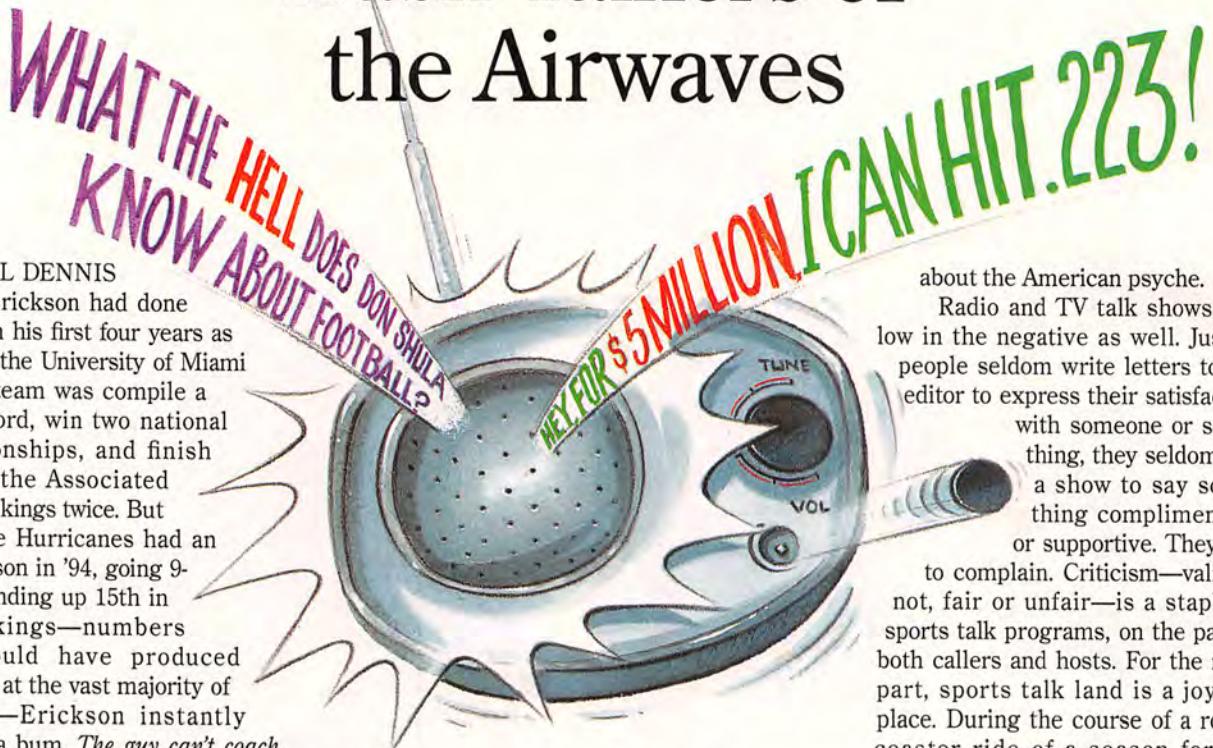
Radio and TV talk shows wallow in the negative as well. Just as people seldom write letters to the editor to express their satisfaction with someone or something, they seldom call a show to say something complimentary or supportive. They call

to complain. Criticism—valid or not, fair or unfair—is a staple of sports talk programs, on the part of both callers and hosts. For the most part, sports talk land is a joyless place. During the course of a roller-coaster ride of a season for the Miami Heat, one South Florida host actually said on the air: "Well, they're on a roll now, but I know they'll start losing again soon, and I'll be able to rip them again." His voice was filled with eager anticipation of shots to come. *Let's rip, rip, rip the home team.*

There are other characteristics common among sports talk shows. Check out the following list to see how many apply to the ones in your town:

Bombast and hyperbole. A guy boots a ball, drops a pass, or commits a turnover to cost a game, and you'd think he was a child molester. It goes beyond a loss of perspective. It's no perspective at all. Hey, these are games, entertainments, trivial pursuits in the larger scheme of things. Athletes are human beings. They make mistakes. Would the critics want to be held to the same impossibly high standards in *their* work? Have they never screwed up? Lighten up, folks.

"But the bum makes four million bucks..." The salary explosion in professional sports has created resentment among fans, which manifests itself in impatience, intolerance, and an inability to forgive anything short of perfection. The unstated—or sometimes stated—



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presumption is, *He makes "X" number of dollars, so he'd damned well better be good.*

Of course, the players themselves have contributed to the deteriorating relationship between athletes and fans by displaying surliness, arrogance, greed, and a lack of loyalty to anything but the pursuit of more money. It's all grist for the talk show mill. Ill will keeps those phones ringing, and above all else, those phones must keep ringing.

Rushing to judgment and band-wagon jumping. It's inevitable that the home team will lose a few in a row. That's understood to be part of the game—except on the talk shows. Any losing streak is the apocalypse, time to panic.

They've got to do something now.

Trade this guy. Fire that guy. Off with their heads.

On the other hand, let the home team win a few in a row, and it's ready to take on the '27 Yankees, Lombardi's Packers, or Auerbach's Celtics. And such glorification often immediately follows the apocalypse, or vice versa. In talk show land, doing a quick 180 is commonplace.

Hosts can express such absurd views and change course with impunity because the shelf life of an opinion is about 30 seconds. There's so much babble, so many opinions expressed, that no one remembers who said what yesterday. With no accountability, everyone can create or destroy as they please, jump on or off bandwagons at will. It's "what have you done for me lately" taken to the extreme.

That brings to mind a story about fight promoter Bob Arum, who once startled listeners at a press conference by directly contradicting what he had told the same group, with the same passion and conviction, the day before—a real doozy, even in the surrealistic world of boxing, where truth is told only when convenient. When asked to explain his flip-flop, Arum, with a straight face, replied: "I was lying yesterday. Today I'm telling the truth."

Bob Arum would make a hell of a sports talk host.

We're No. 1—or else. Only one team can finish on top in any given sport, yet nothing short of the championship seems to satisfy hosts and callers on sports talk shows. Instead of looking for the positive—*yes, they lost but they played well; hey, they did better than anyone expected*—out come the long knives.

(This peculiarly American syndrome manifests itself most ridiculously in the national jokes concerning the team that loses the Super Bowl or the candidate who loses a presidential election. Rather than salute runners-up for getting to within one step of the top, for being better than all but one, we ridicule them. Strange.)

Easy answers, second guesses, and scapegoats. So the home team lost. What happened, and who's to blame? After all, *someone* has to be to blame. Having lost to a better team is not an acceptable explanation. No, a scapegoat must—and will—be found.

Also unacceptable are shades of gray,

Projecting how an athlete will do when he attempts to advance to the next level is, by definition, an inexact science. Furthermore, it takes at least a year, and often longer, to see how a team's draft pans out.

Yet on talk shows, hosts and callers presume to know instantly. Wally from Waukegan, whose opinion was formed by reading a magazine or by watching one of those no-life TV draft geeks who excel only at self-promotion, thinks—no, *knows*—the Bears blew it by picking Jones. *Why, Jones ran only a 4.7 40; Smith ran a 4.65.* Even dumber drafts get rated by hosts and callers (and newspapers, to their shame), even though it's evident that no one possibly can know who did well or poorly until the draftees actually begin to play.

Chronic callers, obnoxious hosts. If you listen to a talk show for any length of time, you will come to recognize repeat callers who say the same things every time. These people apparently have nothing else to do with their lives.

There's a notorious chronic in South Florida, Harvey from Hollywood, who bombards talk shows daily and who constantly writes letters to the editors of all the papers. He is unfailingly, stridently negative, no matter what his subject. He can find no good in anyone or anything. He is a wearisome, pathetic creature.

But even wearisome, pathetic Harvey is an improvement on rude, bullying hosts who verbally beat up callers or dismiss subjects they disagree with. It's not a fair fight, because the host controls the conversation. He can cut off a caller or hang up when he chooses. It's the sports version of shock radio, and it's meant to be entertaining. It isn't, except in those cases when a host has the wit to make the insulted laugh at the insult. That's rare. Mostly, the abuse is offensive.

And often phony. In an attempt to get noticed amid the cacophony of sports talk that increasingly fills the airways, hosts will create on-air personalities—often abrasive and abusive—that in no way reflect who they really are. In extreme cases, they will express provocative or inflammatory opinions they don't really believe in, in an attempt to stir the masses and boost the ratings.

True, it's intellectually dishonest, but hey, this is show biz. Anything goes. ■

LET'S TAKE
ONE LAST CALL FROM
WILLIE IN WALLA WALLA...



complexities, nuances, ifs, ands, or buts. No, the answers are simple and clear-cut. Bank clerks, insurance salesmen—and, of course, talk show hosts—see clearly what Don Shula cannot. After all, Shula has only been in the NFL for 43 years. *He should have done this. He should have done that.* And of course, the answers are evident only on Monday morning.

"I can't believe they didn't take the guard from Cal State-Bovine..."

Claims of expertise on the part of callers and hosts never get sillier than immediately preceding and following drafts, especially the NFL's draft. NFL player personnel people work year-round, panning for every nugget of information—practically down to interviewing the doctors who delivered these prospects when they were born. Yet even after the most exhaustive research, the pros admit that except for the relatively few can't-miss studs at the very top of everyone's charts, they're just making educated guesses.

BARELY A WEEK AFTER HOUSTON Oilers icon Warren Moon was dispatched to the Minnesota winterlands for little more than a snowman and two icicles, he was asked to do a radio promo, one of those little things he'd done almost as often as autographs. "Hi," he began, in his best booming radio voice, "this is Warren Moon of the..."

Stop. Smile. He had caught himself, just before he could blurt out "Houston Oilers." That decade is done, though. A new chapter has begun. "Hi," he repeated, "this is Warren Moon of the Minnesota Vikings, and you're listening to..."

After a decade in Oilers blue, Warren Moon swathed in Vikings purple seems as strange as Barney the dinosaur dressed in shocking pink. And if it looks foreign to you, imagine how Moon feels. "A lot of times if I'm talking about the Oilers, I'll say 'us' or 'we,' like I'm still a part of it," he says. "I have to remember where I am. It's going to take me a while."

Moon—who may be even classier as a person than as a passer—entrenched himself in Houston like few athletes do in their community. When a local church needed more than \$200,000 to complete a new community center, Moon donated the entire amount. When he saw underprivileged youths drifting without hope, he created the Crescent Moon Foundation in 1989, which already has provided scholarships for 82 youngsters, with another 16 to 20 expected to attend college this fall.

But that's just the start. Moon also hosts a celebrity golf tournament and lends his support to the United Negro College Fund, United Way, Sickle Cell Foundation, Urban League, Ronald McDonald House, Special Olympics, March of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Heart Association, Juvenile Diabetes, and Cerebral Palsy Foundation. Houston held a day in his honor to thank him, and at one time or another he's won virtually every award the city has to offer.

And so for a humanitarian with a wife and four children who had sunk roots the size of redwoods, the Minnesota move was incredibly wrenching. But after signing a new two-year, \$5.5 million contract with an option for a third year, after a hero's welcome in Minnesota, after some quick cram sessions at the May minicamp, Moon is looking forward to the new challenge.

So are the Vikings, who have suffered through a series of washed-up or never-were quarterbacks since Fran Tarkenton retired in 1978. A year after the Kansas City Chiefs gave up a No. 1 pick for injury-ravaged Joe Montana, the Vikings fleeced the Oilers for Moon, who has thrown for a record 54,913 yards—almost 32 miles—and still shows precious few signs of decline after 16 years in the CFL and NFL. A Pro Bowler each of the past six seasons, he has averaged a 62% completion rate, 3,846 yards, 24 touchdowns, and 17 interceptions per year in the '90s.

Minnesota was a playoff team last season despite its quarterback, and now Moon, after seven playoff seasons without a championship game appearance himself, thinks both are due for a Super Bowl. "There's no reason I would have decided to go to Minnesota—and a lot of that choice was mine—if I didn't think they had a legitimate chance of doing that," he says. "They've been to the playoffs the last two years, and they're making acquisitions to have that type of season. There's no reason to think they can't."

"They"? When will "they" become "we"? And now that he's free to bare all, what does he really think about those tumultuous times in Houston?

INSIDE SPORTS: Can you describe the reaction you've gotten from the people, coaches, and players in Minnesota?

WARREN MOON: I got off the plane, and there was a marching band there, and cameras and lights, and fans and people giving me an ovation. It was pretty overwhelming,

especially for the time of night we got there. It was 11:30, and I didn't expect anybody to be there. It was really a nice, warm feeling.

IS: We know you resisted leaving Houston at first, but might this trade be the best thing?

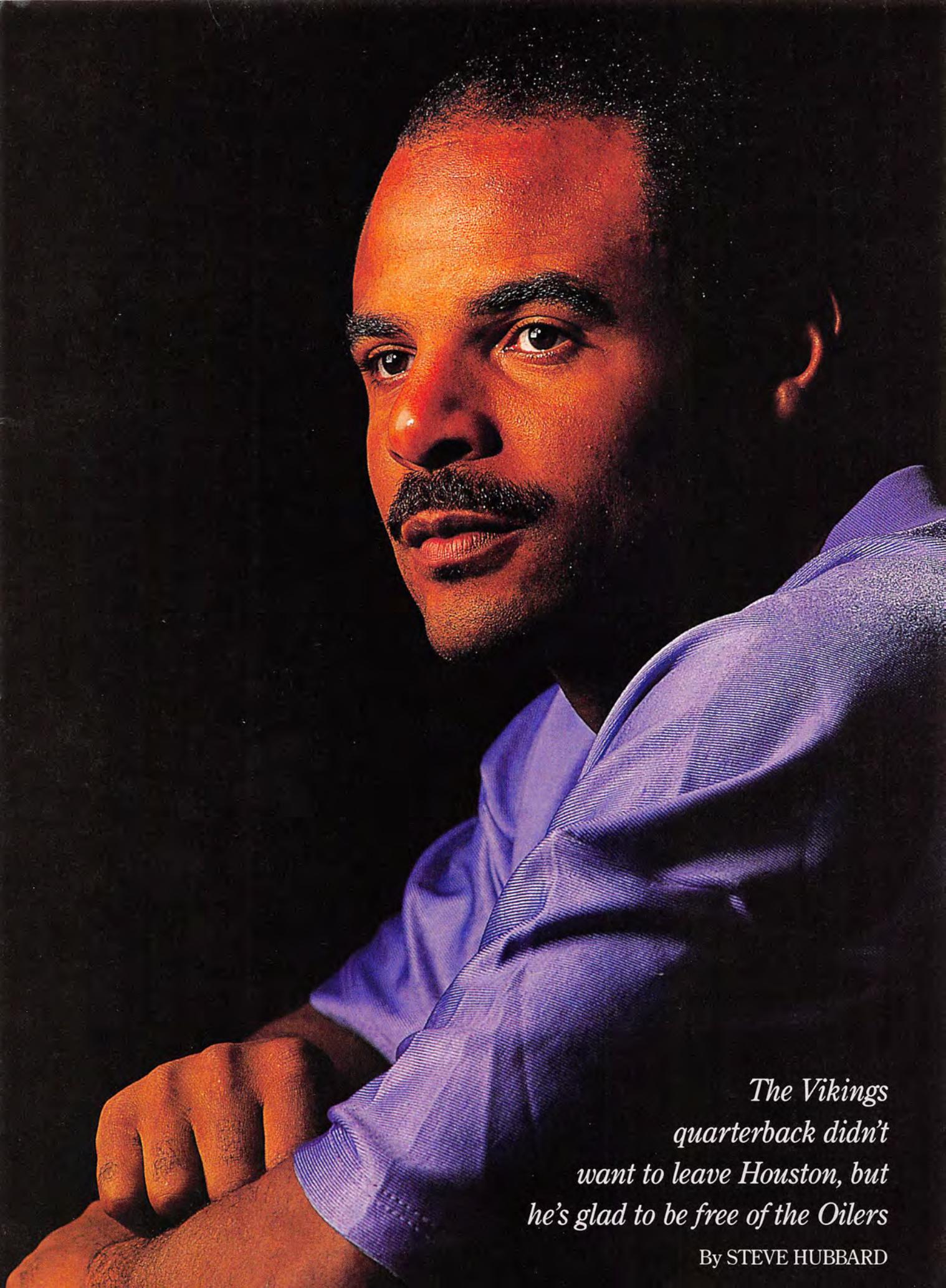
WM: I think it's a good trade as far as where I'm going, the potential of the team, the things they're doing offensively. If I were going to make a change, this would probably be the best place to go. The thing I hate most is that I've established myself much more than most players do in a community. That's the thing I miss most about Houston—not so much the organization, but the relationships I've established with my teammates and with the people of Houston.

IS: Do you think you have a better chance to win a Super Bowl in Minnesota than you ever did in Houston?

WM: I don't know if I'll have a better chance than I ever did, but I'll have a better chance in the next two years, just because of the direction Minnesota is going compared to the direction Houston is going. Minnesota is the best place for me to be because they had a need for a quarterback. They've had the great defense, which is what you need to win a championship. They're solidifying their offensive line by getting Chris Hinton and a big tight end in Adrian Cooper, and drafting another tackle in the first round in Todd Steussie, and they have a solid running game already. All the things are in place to be a contender.

IS: The Vikings lost in the first round of the playoffs the past two years. A lot of peo-

*Warren
Moon:* **Look
Back in
Anger**



*The Vikings
quarterback didn't
want to leave Houston, but
he's glad to be free of the Oilers*

By STEVE HUBBARD

ple said all they needed was a top quarterback, but exactly what can you add?

WM: I can bring some leadership. I can bring some experience—playoff experience—and just that jolt they need. They've never really had an all-out passer, and I bring that, too. I can get the ball downfield and make things happen in the passing game, to go along with a strong running game you need when you're playing in that division, especially when you've got to go into Green Bay or Chicago when it's cold.

We're going to run the 49ers' passing game with a combination of the Redskins' running game: a lot of two tight ends, a lot of motion, try to get a lot of mismatches. I really like it because there's great emphasis on protection from the Redskins' standpoint, and then from the 49ers' standpoint there's the high-percentage passing game where you get the ball out of your hand very quickly. After what I've been through in the run-and-shoot, where I've taken a lot of physical abuse, this is going to be a pleasant change.

IS: If the Oilers were as talented as anybody in the league, why couldn't they ever make it to even the conference championship game?

WM: A combination of things. For one, the front office has to be committed to winning and doing whatever it takes. I don't think just putting a bunch of great players on the field is going to get you to a Super Bowl. The Vikings, back about four or five years ago, had some of the best talent in the league. They would send eight or nine players to the Pro Bowl, and it never happened for them, either.

Another thing is when you get to the playoffs, your defense has to dominate and win games for you. When we got to the playoffs, we just never got that type of play. We always put points on the board. Three years ago against Denver it was 24 points; the next year in Buffalo, 38; last year, 20—but we gave up 21 points in the fourth quarter. Against Buffalo we gave up 35 points in the second half.

IS: What did blowing a 35-3 lead to Buffalo in the '92 playoffs say about the Oilers?

WM: If anything, it said when we have control of the game, we can't keep control. Whether it was coaching decisions or play-

ers keeping up the intensity, it just didn't happen.

Everybody thought we would be destroyed after that loss, but we came back last year and had the best [regular-season] record in football. That showed something about our team. After all the other adversities—with the coaches fighting on the sideline, with the suicide of one of our players, with a player suspended after the birth of his baby—we went through it all and still stayed focused to have a pretty good season. But that stuff just wears on you, and probably at the end of the season we were burned out.

on that team that have nothing to do with your preparation that it really makes it tough to play every week. Talent made us overcome some of those things, but it can only go so far with those things happening all the time.

That's one thing I like about Minnesota. Denny Green told me they were aware of all the things we went through and said those things just don't happen around here.

IS: Were the Houston players too selfish?

WM: I really don't know if it's selfishness. When you have a lot of talented players on a team, that means they want their fair share. Some of that has to be handled right by the organization. When their contracts are up, the organization should take care of the guys who performed. Like myself—I didn't feel I was being unrealistic in my contract dispute, but it went on for two years before it got taken care of, and it was all in black and white what I was supposed to get. They wanted to dispute it, and those things wear on you.

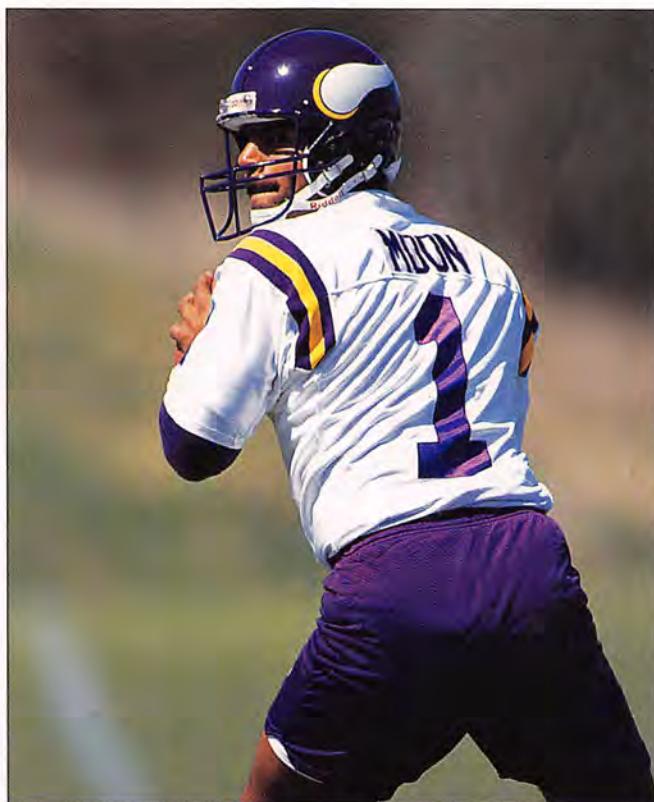
Ray Childress went through a whole year of it. If it happens to me or Ray Childress, who busts his butt every down and does everything right, you know another player who might have less ability but is still a good player is going to have even more problems.

IS: Do you have any respect for Buddy Ryan after the way he derided his own team's offense and punched its offensive coordinator?

WM: I can respect Buddy for his opinion of what we were doing, but I can't respect it when he makes it public. On every coaching staff you're going to have people who don't agree with the way things are done, but you keep it within the team. You don't let it be known publicly because it just creates

more distractions. If he had a problem, talk to the head coach, talk to the owner—but don't tell the media, because the media aren't going to change our offense for you.

What happened on the sideline was totally uncalled-for, and it's too bad the public had to see it happen. I've seen coaches at halftime fight in the locker room, I've seen coaches get in each other's face, I've heard stories of coaches having fights during meetings—when Jerry Glanville was here, that happened quite a bit. But when



STEVE WITTMANN

"After the physical abuse I've been through with the run-and-shoot, this is going to be a pleasant change."

IS: With a controversy every week, it was remarkable you were able to do as much as you did.

WM: That's what I'm talking about. Just because you put good players out there doesn't mean it'll make you successful, because we've had so many problems with players getting signed, with our front office, with commitments from our owner, with our owner putting ultimatums on the players—you name it, and we've been through it. There are so many burdens put

the public is exposed to it, that makes it a bigger deal. It's the players who suffered more than the two individuals, because we're the ones who have to play. If I went on about my whole 10 years in Houston...it's unbelievable how so many things like that could happen in one place.

IS: What was the most unbelievable one that hasn't been publicized?

WM: The fight at halftime of one of those games was pretty big. It was '85 or '86, during Jerry's tenure. We ended up winning the game—it actually kind of motivated everybody. I don't want to bring any names in, but it was a fight between two defensive coaches. They were on the floor going at it pretty good. These were older gentlemen, too. About half the team saw it.

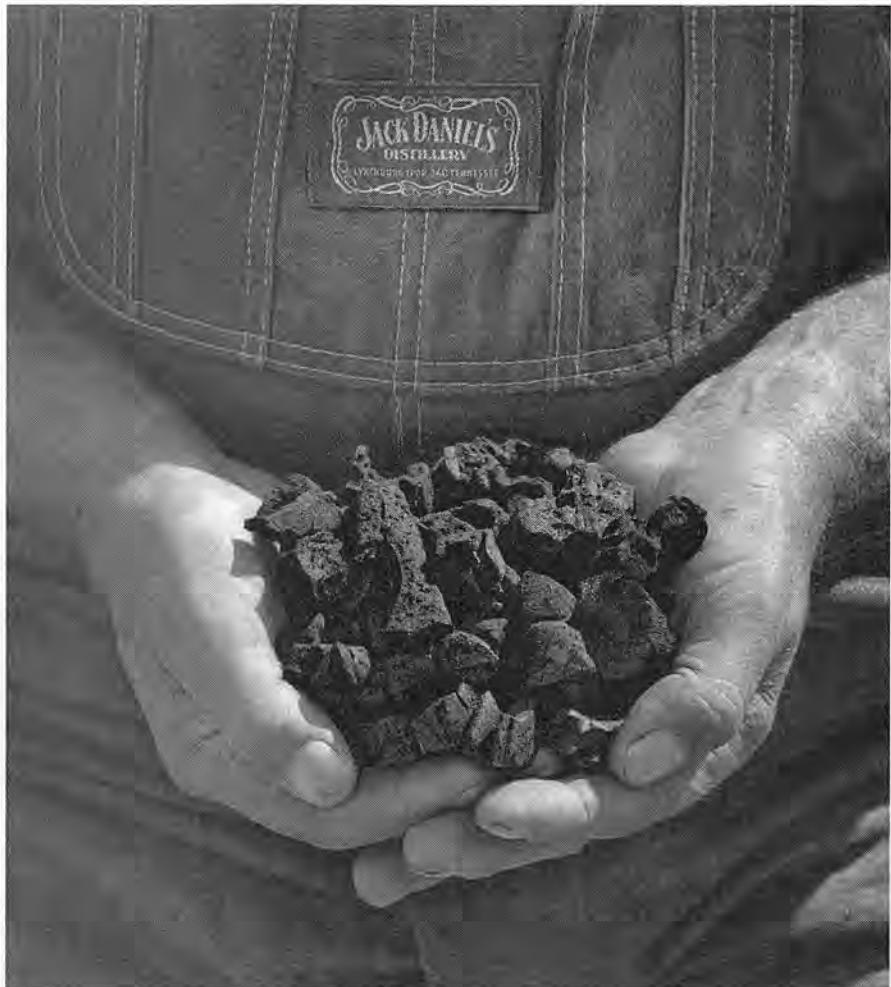
IS: How much dissension did Buddy cause last year? Was he good or bad for the Oilers?

WM: The dissension he caused was really at the beginning, when we were in training camp. It was tough, but once he stopped talking about all those things in the media, our team seemed to quiet down and jell. Once we got down 1-3, our team could have either broke or done what it did: rally around each other and turn it around. It would have been easy for everybody to turn it in, to say, "OK, this season's over, we've got a lot of free agents, let's just get through the season and get our best opportunities afterward"—especially after the ultimatum our owner gave us that this would be the last year this team would be together.

But we didn't fold, and I've got to give [coach] Jack Pardee a lot of credit for keeping everybody positive, keeping everybody focused, just the way he handled that whole situation. On the other side, if he had stepped in sooner with Buddy it wouldn't have gotten to the point it did. There were some bad decisions by Jack not getting on top of that faster, but then he did some great things to keep us together as a team.

IS: Is Pardee too nice?

WM: I don't think "too nice" is the right term. Jack is tougher than most people give him credit for. He's got this persona that everybody thinks he's real nice, but when he has a point to get across he gets it across, and guys listen. In this situation with Buddy he could have stepped in sooner, and it wouldn't have gotten so far out of hand. But you've got to remember the circumstances he was dealt by ownership. Buddy was kind of forced on him. [Oilers owner Bud Adams] steps in and does a lot of things most owners don't do: Last year Jack was forced to draft a tight end, and



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this year he was forced to take on an offensive coordinator who has a tight end background, because that's what the owner wants. As a head coach, it's hard to function under that pressure when you don't have as much control as you should.

For a team as good as we were, you shouldn't mess with something that's really not broke. Let me tell you what it does to a player: When you bust your butt for an organization and do everything you think is right—working hard in the offseason, performing well on Sundays, doing things off the field that give the organization a good look—you would like to think you get that commitment in return. But it never really seems to come down to that in Houston unless there's a fight involved. Once you get done with that fight, you have such a bitter taste in your mouth it breaks your spirit.

That's the thing the Oilers don't understand. If they got things done like the 49ers and other teams that have been successful, those are the little things that could have gotten us over the top. There are so many guys who want to get out of there just because of the way they're treated, they take that on the field with them. They have to. Even though they're competitive, even though they have pride, when it comes to making that extra step, that extra commitment for the organization, you're going to think twice because of the way you've been treated.

The perfect example is Ray Childress. I mean, this guy does it all, but after the way they treated him throughout his negotiation, that's the first thing he told me: "Warren, they just break your spirit around here." And it happens time and time again. They promise you things like, "We'll redo your deal," and then they say, "Oh no, we never said that." Same thing they did with me. They're notorious for having a contract done and then changing the figures when you get it in the mail to sign it. That's happened over and over and over again. You're told around here, never sign a contract unless your agent is right there with you.

IS: The Vikings now have a black coach and a black quarterback. Does racism remain in the NFL?

WM: Definitely. When Charlie Ward can't get drafted, that shows you there's something wrong. Here's a kid who's done everything you can possibly do in college football—win a national championship, win a Heisman Trophy, great passing statistics—and then they're going to say he's not tall enough or his arm's not strong enough? That's totally, totally uncalled-for. There are quarterbacks his same size drafted in the first round who haven't done what he's done. You look at Pat Haden, who played a long time. You look at Jim McMahon, who's not a big guy. Doug Flutie is two or three

not playing well. People pay their money, and they can do whatever they want. But the names my wife and kids have to hear—that's when I know racism is involved. It's probably a small minority, but it's there. And I'm not going to say because I'm going to Minnesota it'll disappear, either. It's not just the South. It can happen a lot of places. I remember walking off the field one time in New England, and a guy was calling me, "Nigger, nigger, nigger." That was the maddest I've ever been at a football game. I wanted go up in the stands and get the guy, but a couple of my teammates pulled me back.

IS: You were the Oilers' player rep in 1987, when the players went on strike in an effort to obtain free agency. Now that you've gotten it and seen its results—veterans being cut left and right, quarterbacks moving all over the place—was it worth all this turmoil?

WM: No, it wasn't. I bailed out on the players union three years ago when I saw where this was headed. I knew we would get our butts whipped because of what [the union] was going after and how it was going after them. I took a lot of heat because I did turn my back on the union, but I didn't agree with what it was doing, and I knew what would happen when this was done—and here it is, and I'm a victim of it. I really believe in the concept of free agency, because I saw what it did for me [moving from the CFL to the NFL]. But the players who had put in their time and busted their butts, those are the first guys asked to leave.

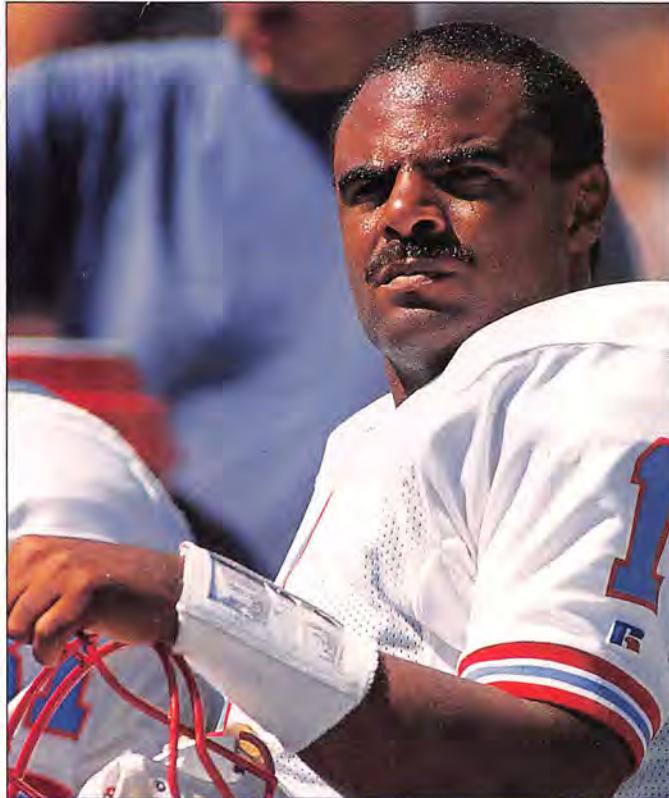
IS: Free agency wasn't the No. 1 goal of a lot of players.

WM: That was something shoved down everyone's throat

by the players association. This deal was never voted on by the body of players—it was voted on by the executive committee, which got its authority from the board of player reps, which was brainwashed by the union officials.

IS: Was free agency the big dream of Gene Upshaw and Doug Allen?

WM: Right. All they had was win-win on their minds. They didn't care what happened as long as they felt like they won. In their minds, they feel they won because they got free agency—they didn't care



"All the adversities in Houston wore on you, and at the end of the season we were burned out."

inches shorter and played in the league.

But the thing I hate most is young black quarterbacks who might not start for you right away are never given the opportunity to be developed for the future. You're either told to go to Canada and come back, or you're not drafted at all, whereas a white kid who's a few years away, they'll draft him and nurture him until he becomes the guy. That, to me, is racism.

IS: Every quarterback gets booed, but your boos have included racial slurs, right?

WM: Right. I don't mind being booed if I'm



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what kind of free agency. They got free agency. They got \$205 million in damages. To them, that was the big thing. That money keeps their jobs. They're all making good salaries, and now they want the players to start paying dues again, which was something they said the players would never have to do again if they did the licensing right. Now the dues have been doubled.

Free agency can be a positive if the guys who have worked their butts off to become stars weren't the ones suffering, but guys who played a long time and are making good money are the first guys to go. It's not a good thing. The salary cap was definitely needed to keep salaries in control, but you don't like what's happening at the beginning here, with some of the stars suffering the most.

IS: Only eight teams are expected to retain the same starting and backup quarterback they ended with in '93. What do all these changes, especially at quarterback, do to chemistry and teamwork?

WM: That's where it hurts the quality of the overall league: not only so many quarterbacks changing teams, but so many players on each team changing. You have to have cohesion to be successful. That's why I don't think there's any clear-cut favorite for the Super Bowl champion because all the teams, including the Dallas Cowboys, lost a lot of players, and a lot of them lost important players. The teams that do the best job in training camp and minicamp as far as creating that cohesion and coming out of the gate really quickly will have the best shot at winning it this year. Coaching staffs are going to be more important than ever this year; getting guys acclimated so they can fit in as quickly as possible, because if you don't you're going to find yourself 0-3 or 1-4, and the season's going to be gone before you know it.

IS: Brett Favre recently said, "It's scary for quarterbacks now that if you have a bad season, you could be axed or asked to take a pay cut." Does the new system put more pressure than ever on quarterbacks?

WM: It does, especially ones making over \$2 million. If you're making that much and do have bad season, they'll look at the highest salaries and start cutting. With me it's totally different—mine is more age. I didn't have my best season, but it was good enough to get me to another Pro Bowl, and we had a good record, but I still got put out to pasture just because I made too much money. And my contract, compared to some of the other guys who are doing the same things, was very low. I had a declining contract, where I would have made \$3.2

million this year. A lot of guys like John Elway and Steve Young are making \$5 million a year.

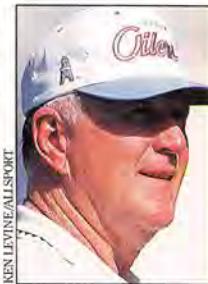
IS: The killer for you came when the Oilers signed Cody Carlson to a big deal before the '93 season. Were they smart to choose him as the quarterback of the future?

WM: They thought he had the ability to take over for me, but there were two problems. One, they didn't think I'd be playing as well as I am at this age. They thought I would be pretty much gone by now. Two, with the salary cap, I don't think they budgeted right. They could have given Cody a deal where if he became the starter, it's torn up and they

redo it. They just gave him the money right away, and it put them in a bind because all the money was in one position. It's almost like they had to save face for what they did.

IS: Cris Dishman says he doesn't think many Oilers would have re-signed if they had known you would be traded. Do you think that's accurate?

WM: I can't speak for everybody, but I just know a lot of my teammates were really upset by the trade. They couldn't understand it. It's not like they're getting a junk quarterback, but the biggest thing most people wonder about Cody is can he last the whole year? He's had a history of injuries, and even now he's not 100% healthy from last year. He's capable because he's shown he can make the plays, but the players are looking at the long haul and trying to get to a championship. The organization was just looking at the bottom line, which it always does.



as a youngster helped me get to where I am. I have an ability to not only entertain on Sundays but also make an impact on young kids and hopefully turn some of them in the right direction if they're going in the wrong direction.

IS: Of all the things you've done for the Houston community, what makes you proudest?

WM: This year is the fifth year of our scholarship program, and we had nine

"Pardee is tougher than people give him credit for, but he could have stepped in sooner with Buddy."

graduates this year, and four are going to grad school. Having played a part in the success of their education really makes me proud. They got some money from other scholarships, but they probably wouldn't have been able to go without ours.

IS: Can you put into words what the Houston community means to you?

WM: When you spend 10 years somewhere working and getting involved in the community like I have from the charity side, plus enjoy where you're living from a family side, it makes it tough to leave. A lot of guys think the trade will be the best thing that ever happened to me because they know what's gone on in this organization for so long. I know being asked to move is part of being a professional athlete, but I just didn't think after 16 years of playing and 10 years in this one place that I would move on. They told me they would never trade me.

IS: How deep is the hurt?

WM: The only thing that bothers me is they did not tell me. I saw it on television. They were having a press conference to announce they'd signed Glenn Montgomery, and Bud

"Yes, there's racism in the NFL. When Charlie Ward isn't drafted, something is wrong."



IS: Why did you become so involved in charity? Was it something the quarterback or the person needed to do?

WM: It was the person. The things I'm doing keep me in touch with what's real in society, because doing what we do, you can really lose touch with what's happening. Another part of it was, the help given to me

[Adams] went on to say they had consummated the trade with Minnesota. Their excuse was they couldn't get hold of me—but they could have called my office. They could have called my home. I had been at the [Oilers] facility until 3 o'clock that day. There were ways they could have gotten hold of me, but they didn't.

You do the trade for whatever reason you do it, but at least give me the respect and show the class to tell me before you let the whole world know. I mean, I've always done right by them since I've been here, tried to represent the organization in a classy way. I also really covered up for them on a lot of things—really almost became a hypocrite—because the answers I told the media really suppressed what was going on here.

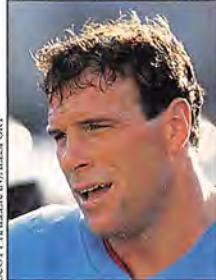
IS: What kind of favors did you do for Adams before this, and what's your view of him now?

WM: Oh, anything he pretty much asked: speak at a function he was a big supporter of, show up at a charity event of his, come to his car dealership and sign autographs—whatever it was he asked for, I pretty much did. He's just not a very loyal person—or just not very loyal to me.

IS: Do you blame just him, or others, too?

WM: He makes most of the decisions around there, even though there are people you think would make the decisions. The bottom line, especially where I was concerned, was him. He made it public he'd get involved in the trade this year because I was too important a guy for him not to get involved. It was something he was never involved in before, and he was in over his head because of how quickly things were happening with free agency this offseason. Before, you could kind of milk a trade and not return phone calls and play that hard-to-get role, but because of the short time period

SCOTT HALTERMAN/ALLSPORT



"After his negotiations with the Oilers, Childress told me, 'They try to break your spirit here.'"

with free agency, you just couldn't do that anymore. He let a lot of opportunities go by that not only hurt me but hurt his opportunity to get better draft picks out of the deal.

I probably could have a new deal somewhere else, a better deal financially, depending on whether I wanted to go to that team. Detroit was interested in me and had a lot of money to spend—the Lions showed that by what they paid Scott Mitchell. The Rams were really interested in me. I wasn't so sure I wanted to go out there, but if you get teams that really want you, they'll step up with a contract and draft choices. The Oilers ended up sending me to the only possibility they had left.

IS: For virtually nothing.

WM: Right. And I almost wish they could have gotten less, just because they did bad business. I'll show you an example of what happened with Bud: The Los Angeles Rams called eight times, trying to get him to return a call, and he never returned it. He saw [Rams executive] John Shaw at an owners meeting in Chicago, and John said, "Bud, how come you never returned my calls? I was really interested in Warren Moon in a trade." Bud said, "Yeah, I just didn't know what I wanted to do at the time, but I think I'm ready to deal now. Why don't you give me a call?" Shaw was like, "Bud, we signed Chris Miller three days ago."

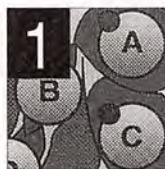
Bud wasn't even aware of it. That just kind of tells you what I'm dealing with. He didn't return Detroit's calls. Atlanta was interested. New Orleans showed mild interest.

IS: Are you glad you're gone?

WM: I'm not glad I'm gone, but I don't see the same potential for success in Houston as I used to. ■

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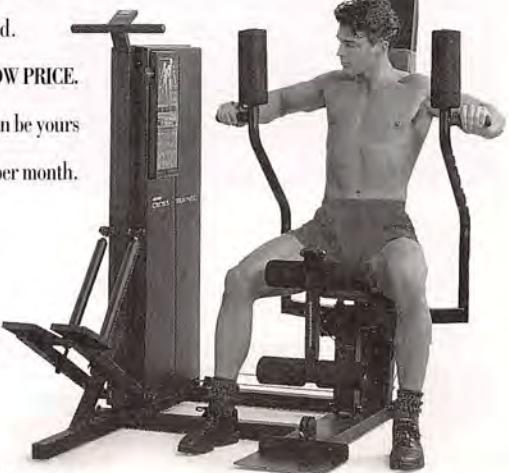
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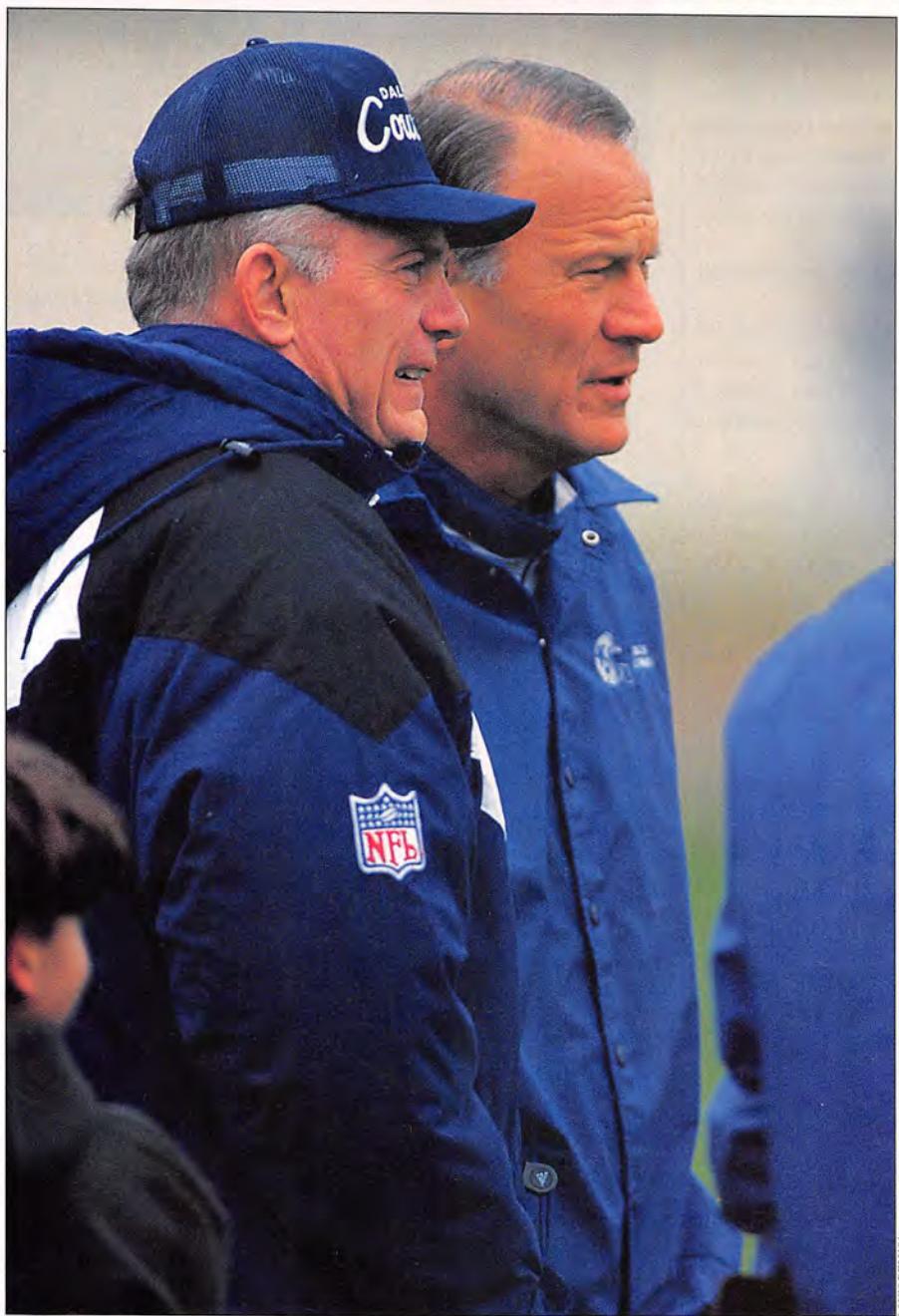
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Switzer opened his first minicamp with the Cowboys this spring. Dressed for the sideline, the impulsive Jones immediately stepped across the boundary onto the numbered lines and proceeded to trample the credibility of his rookie coach. No sooner had Switzer promised in a team meeting that he would dispense with rhetoric that supported management than he was forced to stand powerless as Jones exchanged his power suit for a coaching cap, sweatsuit, and team jacket, and strolled onto the practice field. The minicamp concluded with Jones running pass routes for a Fox television commercial. The natural progression would be for Jones to poke his head into the team's huddle.

Whatever happens, these incidents point out with unmistakable clarity that things will be different for the Cowboys. Jones, who bristled when referred to as meddlesome, never wore coaching apparel on Johnson's practice field. And while the perception around the NFL is that Switzer will prove competent, competitors are hoping Jones and the new system will combine to wreck the team.

Jones often has discussed and occasionally cussed Johnson, whom many observers referred to as the sole provider of what Jones considers shared success. "He won me two Super Bowls?" the owner says. "Hell, I won *him* two Super Bowls!"

When the Cowboys were 1-15, Jones and Johnson behaved as if they were Super Bowl champions. Since becoming Super Bowl champions, they have behaved as if they were 1-15. Now Jerry and Jimmy determined they could not share the same sandbox.

JERRY JONES CONSIDERED JIMMY JOHNSON CONTEMPTIBLE because the team owner could not control the coach, and that friction overpowered a team at the pinnacle of championship success. Johnson cashed out after winning two consecutive Super Bowls with Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, and the other Wheaties box jocks. The concern now for the Dallas Cowboys is that it appears Jerry Jones oftentimes cannot control Jerry Jones, who, notwithstanding the presence of Barry Switzer, still is considered the top candidate to replace Johnson as the coach.

Jones, who has conceded he has an interest in coaching and contended he could win the Super Bowl in such a role, seemed to confirm the darkest suspicions as soon as

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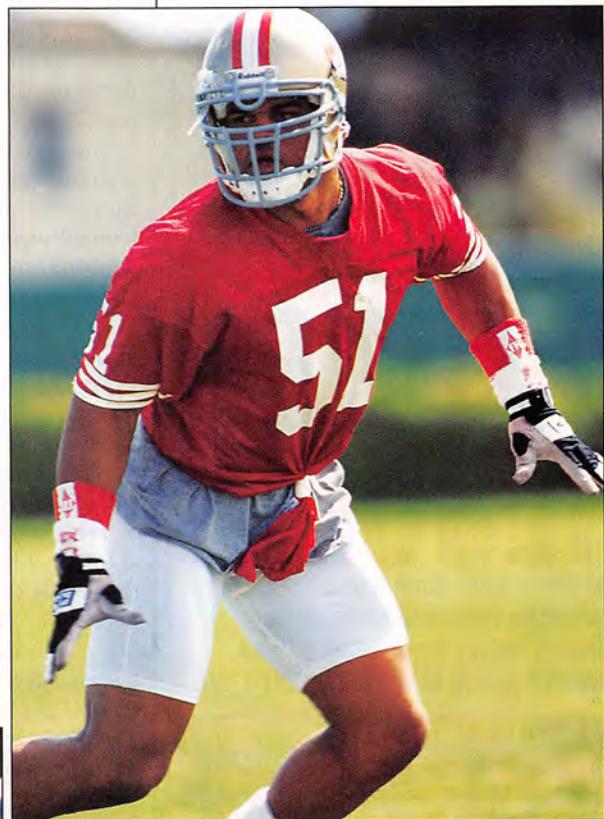
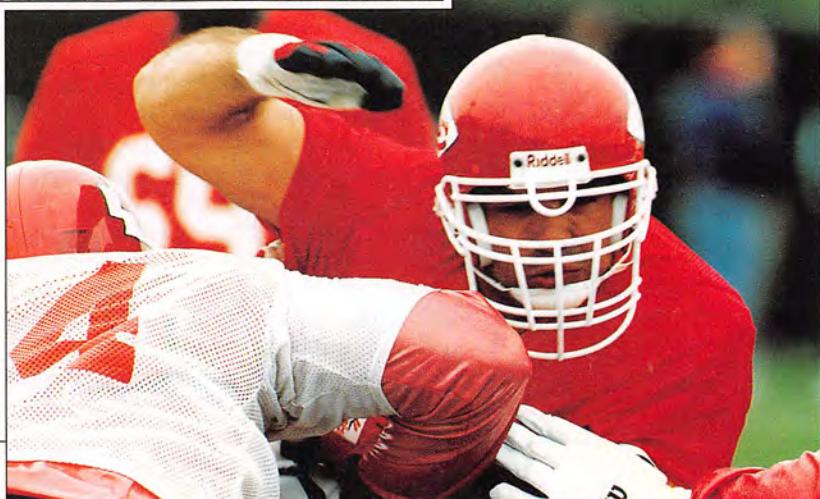
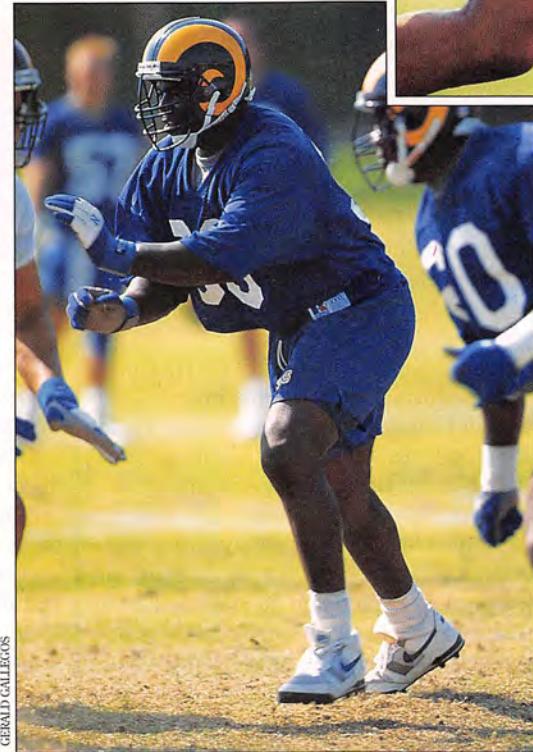
The Cowboys remain the most formidable team in the league and could win their third straight Super Bowl. However, they have been compromised and probably never will win as many championships as they would have had Johnson remained for the final five seasons of his contract.

"If head coaches weren't important to the success of a team, then owners wouldn't fire them all the time," Aikman says. "I think we've been compromised. I think our chances of winning the third Super Bowl have diminished because Jimmy is not here. But I still think we have as good a chance, maybe a better chance, than anybody else of winning the Super Bowl this year."

For that to happen, Switzer probably will have to distance himself from Jones to form the kind of impenetrable bond Johnson had with the players. While Switzer has been content to remain in the background with his stubborn insistence that talent alone wins, he must demonstrate a leadership presence at some point.

"The head coach has a lot to do with the success of the football team, whether he's involved in the X's and O's or not," Aikman says. "He has to know what it takes to get a team ready to play, when to push guys.

Jones has Switzer where he wants him, but they'll watch Norton (49ers), Jimmie Jones (Rams), and Casillas (Chiefs) suit up for somebody else.



Team owner Jerry Jones now is in complete control of the Dallas Cowboys—or what's left of them, anyway

By ED WERDER



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had great respect for Jimmy's ability to do that. The coach dictates the mood of the team."

The prevailing mood is concern and uncertainty. Where there was a championship football team, now there are contending emotions. A confident locker room has been overcome with a sense of loss.

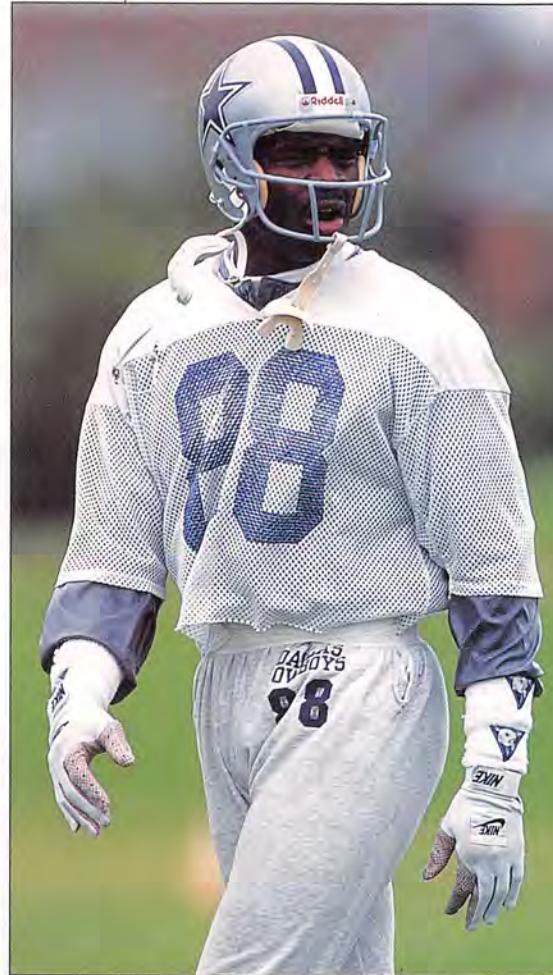
The football has turned totally flat—Irvin makes that much apparent. With nobody to his left and nobody to his right, the Cowboys wide receiver is beside himself. He shakes his head in disbelief, shrugs his shoulders in disappointment. This was the last thing he wanted for his first-place team. The potential was there. The players were there. The pieces were in place, and the place was here, the locker room where Irvin recites the depth chart of the recent untimely disappearances.

"How many people will I know in this locker room?" Irvin says. He looks around, his fearless eyes sweeping the unused dressing cubicles. "Jimmy Johnson? Gone. Dave Wannstedt? Gone. Norv Turner? Gone. Thomas Everett? Gone. Eddie Murray? Gone. Bernie Kosar? Gone. Kevin Gogan? Gone. John Gerek? Gone. Jimmie Jones? Gone. Tony Casillas? Gone. Ken Norton? Gone. Michael Irvin? Hopes."

The changes the Cowboys have made certainly have not been improvements. The team appears weaker at many positions, with impact players discarded like so much ankle tape. These were not reasoned personnel decisions, with better players replacing incompetent ones. They were the product of a new system that combines more liberal free agency with a restrictive salary cap that seems more concerned with profit margins than winning percentages.

Jones certainly has been forced to make some difficult decisions that clearly have compromised a talented football team that could have further packed an already-crowded trophy case. Some of his choices were arbitrary; several were unnecessary. The decision to replace Johnson with Switzer was both.

"The approach Jimmy took with the football team was that when the team had suc-



Irvin: "Now we have to see if we still have a Mercedes, or do we have a raggedy-assed car?"

cess, there was enough credit to go around for everyone," says Aikman. "Now we see that wasn't the case."

Obviously, the only thing Johnson wanted more than to coach the Cowboys to another Super Bowl was to discontinue his partnership with Jones, who seemingly wanted the one thing he never could have. For all his money and power, Jones wanted to be renowned for his football acumen. He wanted to be Jimmy Johnson.

Jones' perception of Johnson's lack of a proprietary sense about the Cowboys infuriated him, and he was worried the coach was so consumed with self-promotion that he wasn't committed to the team. For his part, Johnson disdained Jones' constant scrabbling for credit and was contemptuous of the owner's attempt to usurp his control over personnel decisions by reworking his contract. After Jones threatened to fire the coach during the NFL meetings in Orlando, Johnson thought he no longer could trust or respect the owner, and the annual trophy tug between the two was canceled abruptly. As a result, while the Cowboys still could win the Super Bowl this season, they probably never will win

as many as they could have.

"Jerry has to know that you can't take on a winning coach or a superstar player," says one NFL team president. "Jerry wants to be the owner, the coach—and if he were younger, he'd want to throw a few passes, too."

Super Bowl and regular-season MVP Emmitt Smith, almost-traded wide receiver Alvin Harper, and Irvin somberly watch highlight tapes of the past two seasons, when the Cowboys ripped the San Francisco 49ers for the NFC championship and the Buffalo Bills in the Super Bowls. "Boy, we were bad back then," Irvin says. "We were bad boys back then."

"I don't know about now," Harper replies.

"We can win without Jerry," says Smith, who has won three consecutive rushing championships. "I'm not certain we can win without Jimmy. In the long run, what Jerry has done to Jimmy will come back and bite somebody in the ass. To lose the head coach over some b.s. after he won two Super Bowls? I've never heard of a coach being fired for winning two Super Bowls. I've heard of people being fired for finishing 1-15—I've never known of a coach who was fired for winning two Super Bowls."

Until now, there never had been such a thing. Until Jones took over, the Cowboys had had one coach in 29 seasons; Switzer—who will have to fight to make sure his primary functions in his rookie season aren't talking to the players before games and the media afterward—is their third in six seasons.

Players and fans alike feel uncertain about Jones' commitment to winning. They are concerned about whether his skull is thicker than his wallet. Johnson's coaching record the past two seasons was 31-7 overall. Furthermore, the coach who kept a pair

of brass balls on his desktop—as shiny as they were symbolic—had instilled in his team a sense of invincibility.

"I have all the respect in the world for Jimmy and his skills, and feel there is no one better at coaching a football team than Jimmy," Jones says. "But I feel others can coach the Dallas Cowboys and win Super Bowls. There have been other Super Bowls played, and other coaches have won them."

Meanwhile, Johnson awaits the opportunity to overthrow the dynasty he constructed. When Johnson inevitably takes the helm of another club next season, the Cowboys still will have Aikman and Smith, and maybe Irvin, but Johnson's new team will have something similarly important: him. "I'm egotistical enough to think if I've been with another team for a few years that I'm going to have the team that can beat the Cowboys," he says.

Johnson is not the first coach to depart his team immediately after winning a Super Bowl championship. Green Bay's Vince Lombardi, San Francisco's Bill Walsh, and the New York Giants' Bill Parcells all left after a title. The 49ers are the only team to return to the Super Bowl in the first year under a new coach; George Seifert won the second of San Francisco's back-to-back titles in his rookie campaign of 1989. However, Walsh left because he wanted to, and he participated in the anointing of his successor.

Furthermore, the San Francisco players seemed motivated to prove they could win without Walsh, while Cowboys players have lined up in support of their deposed coach. Aikman claimed he might not have

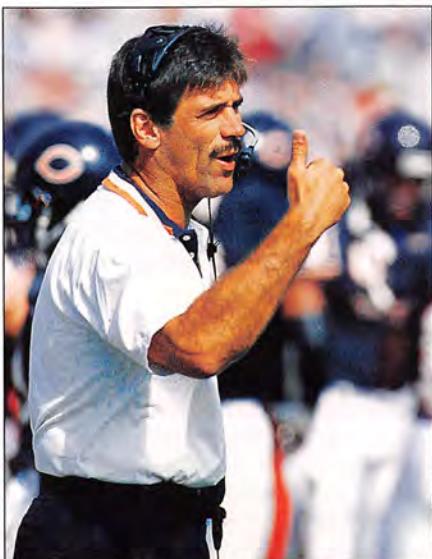


In the past two seasons Dallas also has lost Wannstedt [left] and Turner, two assistants who contributed greatly to its Super Bowl wins.

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM/NFL PHOTOS

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signed his eight-year, \$50 million contract if he had known Johnson would not remain the coach, and Irvin and Smith both have postponed plans to build new homes in the Dallas area. In addition, Irvin walked out of Switzer's initial team meeting, refused to meet with the coach for a month, and insists he will pursue another place to play after completing his contract this season.

"If Jimmy's not here, I don't want to be here," Irvin says. "If this thing crumbles, I don't want to be here when it happens."

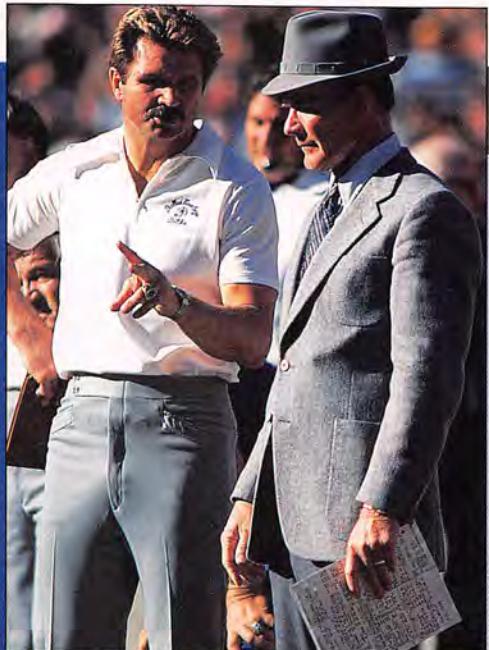
The last time it happened to the Cowboys, it happened because they couldn't replace lost talent. Jones already has streamlined the personnel department to something thin enough to impress Susan Powter, but Johnson was unmistakably the team's lead personnel man, a deci-

sive and shrewd operator credited with making astute draft decisions and manipulating the league through one-sided trades.

His absence already has had an impact. When Jones was unable to pull off a draft-day trade of Harper for a top draft choice in order to take pass-rusher Willie McGinest, there were whispers suggesting Johnson would have gotten it done. The Cowboys instead overpaid to advance five positions and select Shante Carver, a skinny pass-rusher who can't break 5.0 in the 40.

In addition, Jones—who, with the exception of Smith's contract dispute, has spent money freely to win—found himself powerless to retain all of his team's key free agents. The competition hopes the salary cap will further undermine the Cowboys' depth.

"They've had some serious, serious transition," says 49ers president Carmen



FOCUS ON SPORTS

"Landry ran the show; I hope Barry isn't just a figurehead coach."

system in place that was effective in beating the other teams in the Big Eight. So Barry obviously knew what the hell he was doing.

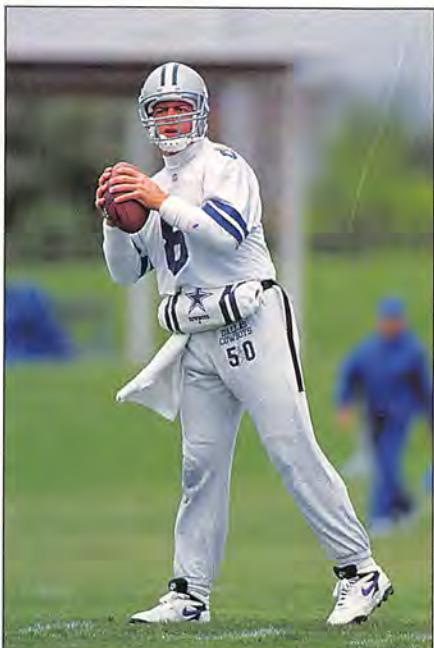
But in a situation like the one in Dallas, I think Barry's going to have to rely on his assistants a tremendous amount in the beginning, and so I would hope he's not just a figurehead coach. I don't think he is—I think he'll be able to make his own decisions and stand by them. That's important. The head coach should be like Tom Landry was when he was head coach of the Cowboys, when I was working for him. He ran the show, the way both Vince Lombardi and George Halas ran the show with the Packers and Bears. You've got to, because ultimately what happens to the team is going to come back to you. You're going to be blamed for it regardless. If Barry is just going to be a figurehead for Jerry Jones he's making a big mistake, but I don't think that's the case.

However, it's going to be tough on him because the Cowboys knew why they won and how they won, and now they're going to have to prove that again. Jimmy Johnson's departure probably bothered a guy like Michael Irvin much more than some of the other players because of the close relationship they've had since their University of Miami days. And although they've still got the main horses in Irvin, Emmitt Smith, and Troy Aikman, they've lost some key players—especially on defense—and it's not going to be easy to replace them. □

DITKA ON: The Dallas Cowboys

This month INSIDE SPORTS is pleased to welcome special contributor Mike Ditka. Beginning in this issue, Mike—a Hall of Fame tight end who coached the Chicago Bears to triumph in Super Bowl XX and is now an NBC studio commentator—will bring his special insights into the NFL and the game to our football coverage.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, BARRY SWITZER is walking into a very tough situation in Dallas, regardless if he's a good coach or not. And he is a good coach. Let's face it—he didn't do what he did in college with mirrors. Whether Oklahoma bought talent or not, I don't know, but they put a



Aikman: The credit for success isn't shared any longer in Dallas.

Policy, whose team undercut the Cowboys' talent advantage with an \$8 million contract to linebacker Ken Norton, the loud and undisputed leader of the Dallas defense. "Jerry Jones has an immense amount of talent and energy. He'll work the system we have. But he has a challenge ahead, no matter how much talent and energy he has personally. A lot of talent has left the team. There is no denying the qualities of Jimmy Johnson, and the Cowboys weren't making the moves they made with their players [in the past] to get better.

"I know this: In our years of success, it has been a major partnership between [owner] Eddie DeBartolo, the head coach, and some key players. Take any one of those out, and I'm not sure we could have done it. Maybe the Cowboys are different."

However, don't forget this: While the Cowboys lost more talent in the offseason than any other team in the league, they also appear to have retained more than their competitors. Still, some defectors insist Johnson could have prevented the departure of many who did leave, because he could have influenced Jones.

"I'm very sensitive that the change of Barry coming in and Jimmy leaving has created an uneasy feeling," Jones says. "I can say this: We will see. I have a plan. The plan has as its primary goal going back to the Super Bowl in 1995. I'm not in the business of compromising that plan. I recognize the core base of our talent is here now. We have a great opportunity for the next

WHAT DO
YOU NEED
TO BE
THE BEST?

“FOCUS.

TEAMWORK.
FAMILY.”

...Emmitt Smith

IT'S UP TO YOU.

STAR

AUTHENTIC

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several years to be a competitive team, and perhaps a Super Bowl team."

The Cowboys had eight Pro Bowl players on offense when free-agency started. All remain in place. Aikman, the top quarterback, and Smith, the most productive run-

ner, still share the ball and the backfield. Irvin is one of the top three receivers in the league, Daryl Johnston is a punishing fullback, and Erik Williams is one of the NFL's most imposing offensive tackles.

The defense will suffer without Norton,

though, and the absence of Casillas and Jones deprives the Cowboys of the defensive line depth that allowed Johnson to rotate seven players, a key to the team's success. But Dallas still has Charles Haley, Russell Maryland, and cornerbacks Larry Brown and Kevin Smith, who has become a premier coverage player.

"You have to compare what we've done to what has happened with other teams," Jones says. "I've thought for two years that the Cowboys would have an additional advantage other than having a great back-to-back Super Bowl team: that we would meet competition that had less continuity than we have."

"I look at the Giants, Washington, Philadelphia, and even [Arizona]. Compare how many key players and how much continuity we have retained relative to our competition, and I think we come out ahead. Those teams have lost players—and have they lost them at key positions? It looks to me like Washington lost its quarterback. It looks to me like New York has had a lot more attrition in the offensive line. I think Philadelphia would like to have Seth Joyner and Clyde Simmons back."

The Eagles also would like to have Jimmy Johnson. They are one of several teams that have approached Johnson, with new owner Jeff Lurie promising the coach total and immediate control. In addition to Rich Kotite, Tampa Bay's Sam Wyche and Seifert have reason to chomp antacids with Johnson on the open market.

However, Jones has an even greater reason for white knuckles and gray hair. He understands—and accepts—who will be blamed if the Cowboys fail to win a third Super Bowl.

"I know who will be accountable, and it won't be Barry Switzer," Jones says. "Every time we step out and have a big victory, there's not going to be as much swagger on my part, like we should have done that because we're two-time defending Super Bowl champions. We really have something to prove. The team has something to prove. If Jimmy had been here, it wouldn't have been the same challenge."

But Irvin and the other Cowboys players didn't want an additional challenge. They wanted another championship.

"When you have a Mercedes, and it's running perfect to where you punch it once on the highway and you're blowing past everybody, you don't take it to the shop," Irvin says. "There's nothing to fix. We had a Mercedes that was running perfect. There was nothing to fix, but now Jerry has taken it to the shop. Now we have to see if we still have a Mercedes, or do we have a raggedy-assed car?" ■

Worth His Weight in Gold

Bowl. The key component in his powerhouse team's success, Smith now even approaches teammate Troy Aikman as the NFL's premier player.

"I'd say Emmitt is the best player in the league right now, but I want the ball, and Troy is the one who throws it to me," says Cowboys wideout Michael Irvin, his smile as wide as his wallet. "Let's put it like this: I don't think there are many people you can look at and say, 'God put him here to play football.' But look at Emmitt, and you see one of them. God put him here to run with the football."

Smith is the only NFL rushing champion to win a Super Bowl. He won his third consecutive rushing title last season with 1,486 yards after a contract dispute with team owner Jerry Jones—resolved when the defending world champions went winless without him. He proceeded to be chosen the NFL regular-season and Super Bowl MVP, a double-play last turned by the San Francisco 49ers' Joe Montana. And in five seasons, Aikman

Montana. And in five seasons, Aikman

has never won without Smith, compiling an 0-13 mark in such circumstances.

"I felt personally challenged last season. I wanted to dominate."

"I really felt personally challenged," Smith says of last season. "I wanted to totally dominate. I went through an ordeal I shouldn't have been taken through. I saw a team where an owner put himself before the football team, a team where an owner played with my future and questioned my credibility and net worth. It hurt me."

What Smith wants to prove is that he's the best running back in NFL history. He has the ability—he's produced 4,762 yards and 39 touchdowns the past two seasons and has 5,699 yards for his career—but durability is the concern. Despite his bouncy style, Smith takes punishment. He underwent surgery for the first time this offseason because of a separated right shoulder sustained while compiling 229 total yards in a gutty performance that won the Cowboys the NFC East title last season.

Former Cowboys Hall-of-Famer Tony Dorsett, who lost several team records to Smith last season, predicts Emmitt will complete his career as the best running back ever. "With the offensive line and the system he performs in, Emmitt will break every record out there," Dorsett says. "The man has the drive to be the best. A lot of players reach the top and become complacent. The great ones keep pushing." □



JON SOOHO/BERNSTEIN & ASSOC. INC.

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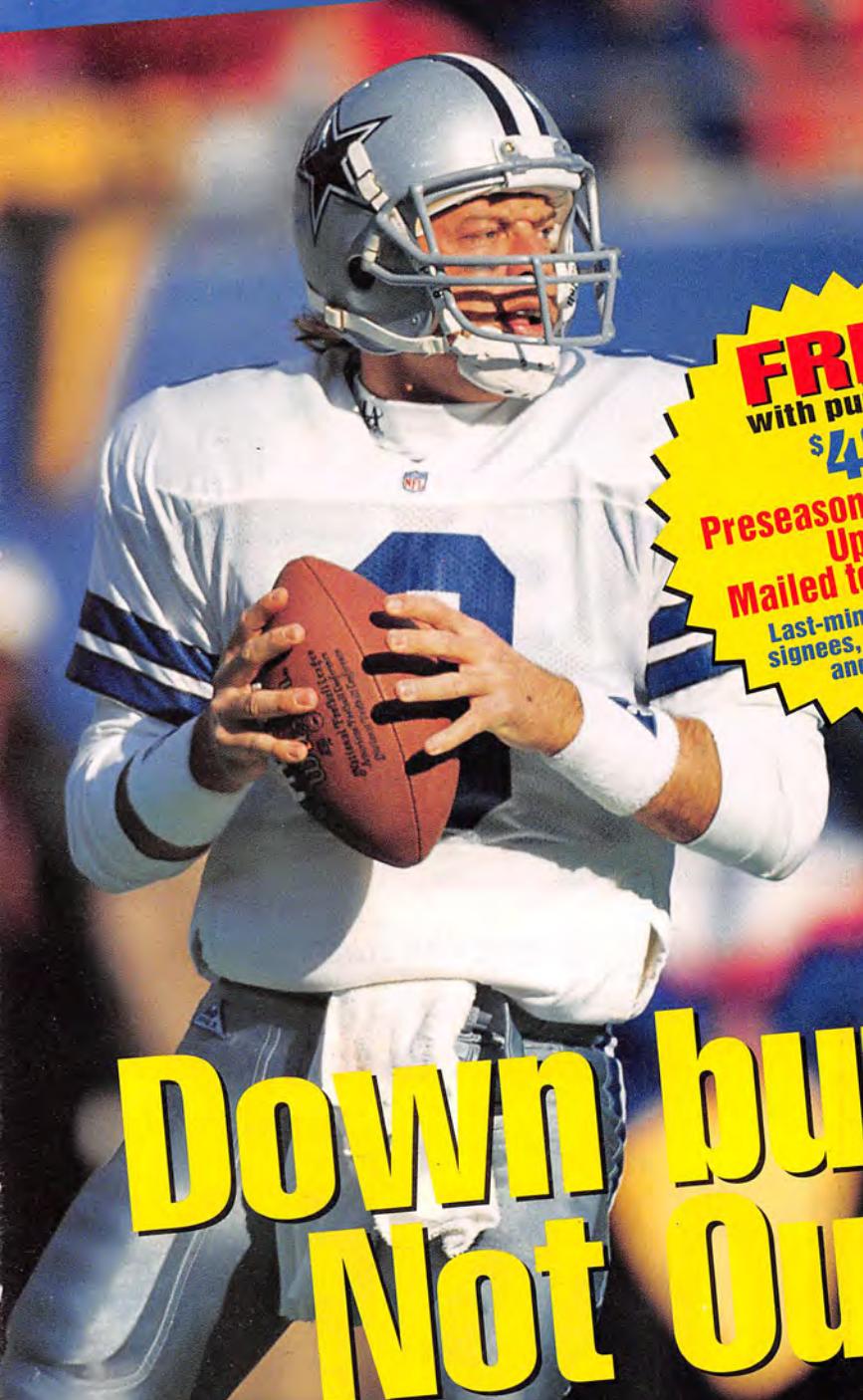
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PRO FOOTBALL

1994 YEARBOOK

INSIDE
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Down but Not Out

Troy Aikman and Dallas s
at a third Super Bowl r

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Produced by the editors of INSIDE SPORTS, the INSIDE SPORTS PRO FOOTBALL YEARBOOK gives you unmatched in-depth coverage of all 28 NFL teams, plus a fantasy football player ratings section. We analyze personnel on both sides of the ball, plus examine the coaching philosophy and the prevalent schemes in our "Chalk Talk" section. Our breakdown of the stats looks at how each team performed under various conditions last year, and easy-to-read graphs chart significant data from last season. And our fantasy football section not only rates player production but predicts, based on coaching strategy and personnel, how each player will fare in his team's plans for '94. And by purchasing your copy of the INSIDE SPORTS PRO FOOTBALL YEARBOOK you'll be able to receive your free copy of the INSIDE SPORTS PRO FOOTBALL PRESEASON NEWSLETTER UPDATE (a \$4.95 value) mailed to your home via first class mail August 22. Or, if you prefer, for only \$3 you may receive your update via fax on one of three dates you select.

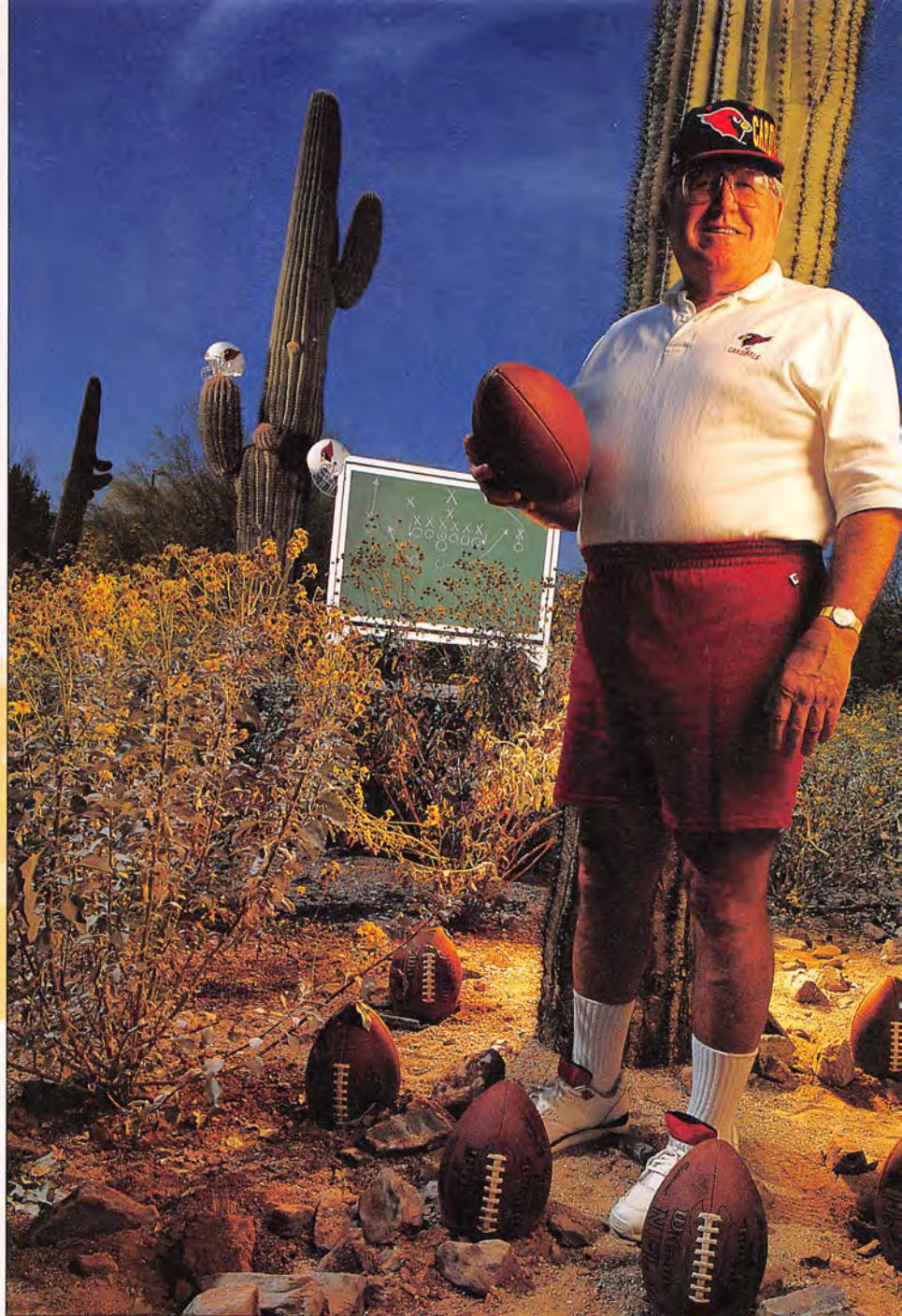
CONTRARY TO WHAT HAS BEEN FLYING out of Phoenix or Dallas or Terry Bradshaw's new mustache, 1994 in the NFL won't be the year of Buddy Ryan or Barry Switzer or the Fox network. It won't be the year of anything established or expected. Oddly enough for America's conservative giant, the spectator sport with the most fans and money and prestige, 1994 will be symbolized by a tiny squiggle: a question mark.

Rarely has this league been engulfed in so many questions. Whom will Buddy bash? Are the Cowboys cooked? Who's going for two? Are there any kickers left? And will somebody please turn on that damned radio so our quarterback can call the play?

However, the NFL soon will learn that only one thing is more important than all these questions.

The answers.

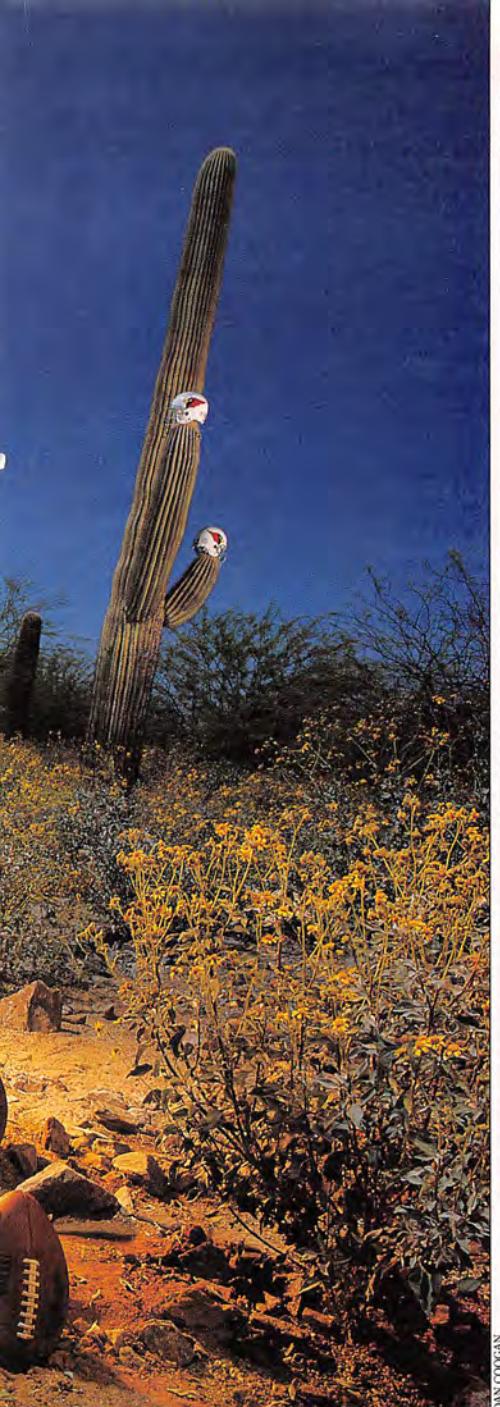
1 Is Buddy Ryan really a head coach again? If you don't believe it, ask the 16 players who came or went from the Arizona Cardinals in just the first three months of Ryan's reign. Ryan is not only a head coach again, but the league's leading act again. He'll rip opposing players, but not as badly as he'll rip his own players. He'll insult opposing club officials, but not as badly as he'll insult his own club's officials. Every breath he takes, every move he makes, the NFL world will be watching him.



How will free agency, the salary cap, a new TV network—and Buddy Ryan—affect the NFL this season? Read on and find out

By BILL PLASCHKE

94 QUESTIONS FOR



DAN COOGAN

'94

2. But will Buddy Ryan win? If you don't think so, you tell him. We think that with Seth Joyner and Clyde Simmons added to an already powerful defense, and with Ron Moore as the featured runner in a safe offense led by improving Steve Beuerlein—yes, Buddy will win.

3. What does the rest of the NFC East think? When division rivals look in the mirror, they realize Buddy has as much chance as anybody. The Dallas Cowboys without Jimmy Johnson are a team without a soul. The Washington Redskins must survive with a rookie quarterback. The Philadelphia Eagles must survive with a rebuilt quarterback. And the New York Giants lost five key players to free agency while signing just one.

4. How 'bout them Cowboys? How 'bout losing the best football coach in the world? How 'bout losing your best defensive player in Ken Norton Jr., and your defensive depth in Tony Casillas and Jimmie Jones? How 'bout losing one of your best offensive linemen in Kevin Gogan? How 'bout even losing kicker Eddie Murray? (How hard is it to keep a *kicker* happy?)

5. Didn't the Cowboys also lose some guy named Norval? Oh yeah, how 'bout that? Norv Turner, the best offensive coordinator in the league, is now the head coach of the Redskins. It's his job to teach rookie Heath Shuler what he once taught Troy Aikman, and it's Shuler's job to not go crazy while the Redskins are still losing a bunch of games.

6. So Shuler will be the brightest new star in this aging division? No, that would be his teammate, Reggie Brooks, the NFC's sixth-leading rusher last year with 1,063 yards even though he had at least 20 fewer carries (223) than anybody ranked in the top seven. He was victimized by the old regime's unwillingness to decide on one running back, but won't have the same problem with Norv Turner, who knows another Emmitt Smith when he sees one.

7. Has Randall Cunningham suffered a season-ending injury yet? For now, anyway, the only thing bruised is his ego. The Eagles attempted to trade their once-untouchable quarterback to several teams this spring in hopes of drafting Shuler or Trent Dilfer. Cunningham was not pleased. If he plays a full season—for only the second time in four years—we suspect he'll remain angry enough to throw for a ton.

8. How can you have seven questions about the NFC East and ask nothing about the New York Giants, who could have won the division on the last day of last season? It's their second year under the wearying regime of Dan Reeves, their 15th year

under aging Phil Simms, and their first year without the inspiration of Lawrence Taylor. The numbers add up to disappointment.

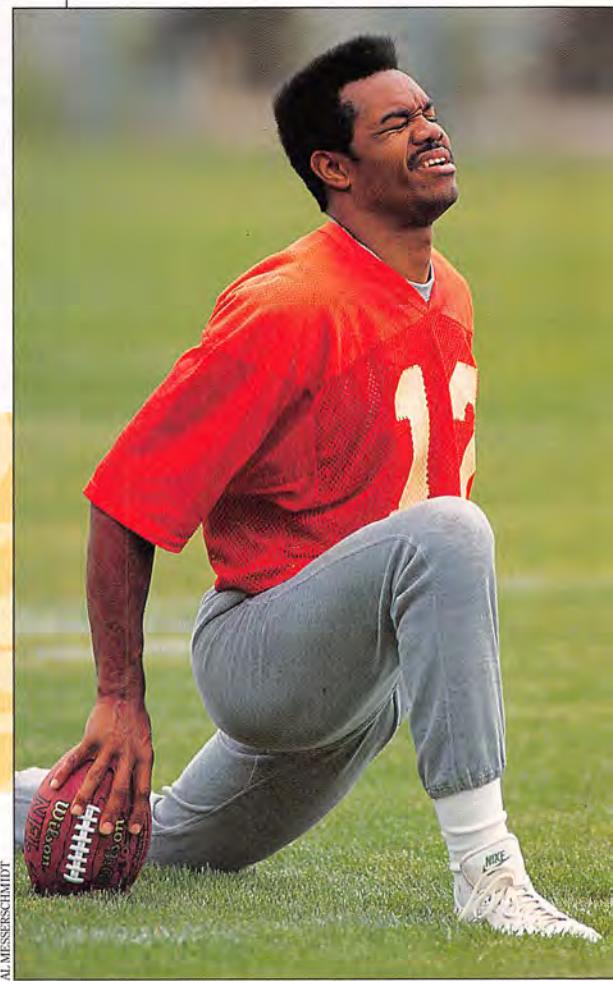
9. If we decide to burn the rest of our vacation and all of our frequent flier miles by going to some prime NFL games this year, where should we start? In Kansas City on September 11, where the Chiefs host the San Francisco 49ers: Joe Montana vs. former teammate Steve Young. It's a game that both men will want to win worse than they'll ever admit or we'll ever imagine.

10. Who should be the first pick in our fantasy league draft? Emmitt Smith. The Dallas Cowboys running back proved last year that he's the greatest player in the game. He scores, he gains bunches of yards, and best of all, he plays hurt. Unless Barry Switzer replaces him with Charles Thompson, there's no reason he won't dominate again.

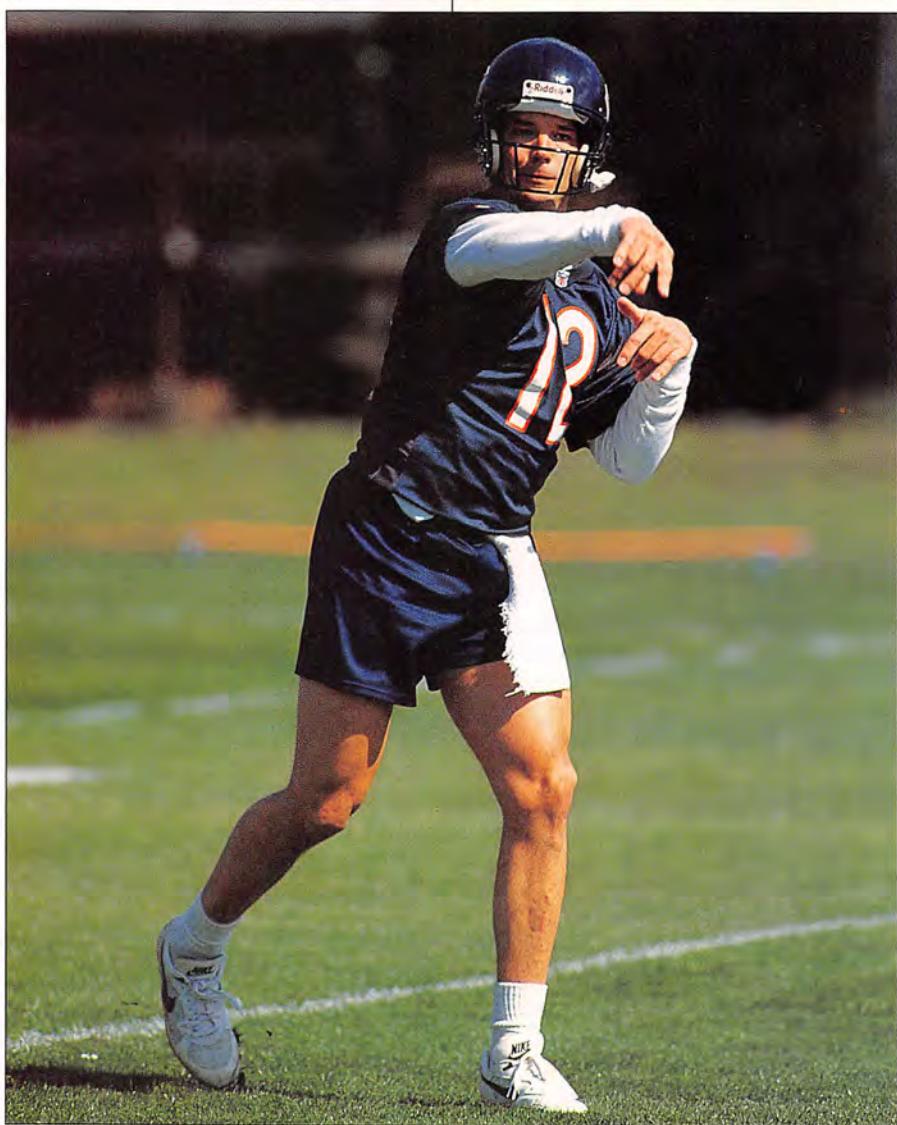
11. Who will be the shrewdest pick on our fantasy league draft? Drew Bledsoe of the New England Patriots. Those four touchdown passes he threw on the last day of the 1993 season against the Miami Dolphins were no fantasy.

12. Who will be the dumbest pick in our fantasy league draft? (We should warn you, last year somebody in this league picked Mark Duper.) Then somebody this year will pick Detroit's Scott Mitchell in the first round.

13. Who will be our favorite voice on the new Fox



AL MERSCHMIDT



STEVE WOLTMAN

NFL broadcast team? Analyst Tim Green. If he speaks half as well as he writes—his book, “Ruffians,” is one of the best narratives ever about life in the NFL—then listening will be a pleasure.

14. Will former Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson use his new Fox forum to discuss the type of underwear he's wearing? No, those discussions are reserved for lighter occasions, such as the week before last season's Super Bowl, when Johnson challenged a roomful of reporters to ask his girlfriend if he was *wearing* underwear.

15. Who is Johnson going to rip first? He may not rip anybody. As a coach, Johnson always claimed that he spoke not *to* the media but *through* the media. Thus we expect him to be speaking not to the audience but through the audience, with words he hopes will be heard by prospective employers. Anybody who thinks he won't use his new forum to work himself into the best possible coaching job for next year has been inhaling too much hair spray.

16. Oh, so Howie Long will be Fox's new loose cannon? That makes sense. But before Mr. Long criticizes a single player, he should discuss what happened to him in Buffalo in the playoffs last

year. He was offside four times in that game, yet did not deem it necessary to meet with the media afterward to explain himself.

17. We think rating football announcers by various categories is just another way for TV columnists to make sure all their buddies have been kissed. Once and for all, who is the best football announcer, period? Pat Haden of TNT. Nobody is brighter, better-spoken, and more unafraid to offer intelligent criticism. Only by watching him on TNT can the viewer truly feel like he's watching the game from inside a huddle.

18. Once we've seen Steve Young exorcise his demons against Joe Montana, where is the next prime game? How about going to Buffalo on September 26 when the Bills host the Denver Broncos? The two teams might just top the 100-point mark. As an added bonus, it will be your last chance to see grass there until 1995.

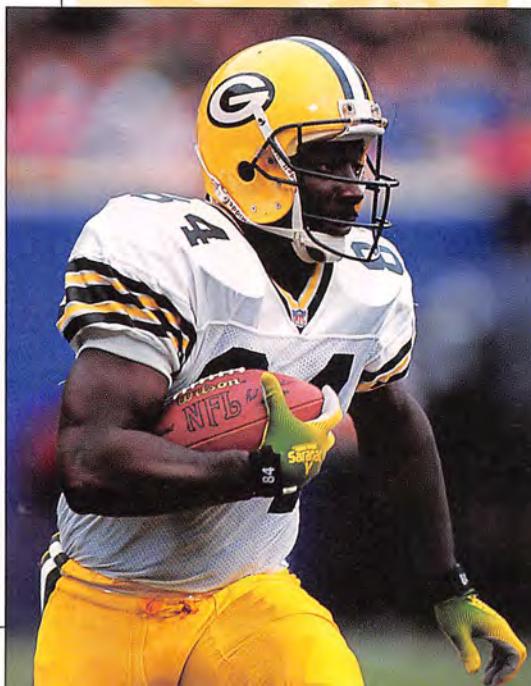
19. Sterling Sharpe told us the NFC Central will be football's most wide-open, risk-taking, pass-happy division this year. Is that true? Sterling Sharpe talked to you?

20. OK, so we fibbed—it was Brett Favre. But can this be possible? It's not only possible, it's probable. The NFC Central has exchanged its steel-toed boots for Reeboks. In a matter of months, it's gone from football's gray lady to that big-haired gal with too much makeup.

21. Enough with the bad metaphors. Explain yourself. Four of the five teams in the division start this season with a new quarterback—and not one of those quarterbacks is Jim Harbaugh. Scott Mitchell joins Detroit, Erik Kramer goes to Chicago, Warren Moon is with Minnesota, and Trent Dilfer was drafted by Tampa Bay. And you don't think the footballs will be flying?

22. But won't the best NFC Central team be the one with no quarterback change? Absolutely. The Green Bay Packers changed enough things around Brett Favre to make them true Super Bowl contenders for the first time in almost 30 years. They added proven running back Reggie Cobb, gave Reggie White some defensive line help by signing Sean Jones, and drafted three wide receivers, one of whom should take some pressure off Sterling Sharpe.

23. How come Sterling Sharpe sets all sorts of receiving records but never is mentioned in the same breath as Jerry Rice and Michael Irvin? Because he doesn't talk to the print media after what he considered unfair treatment early in his career. This attitude not only greatly diminishes his off-field worth but also hurts the award and endorsement prospects of his teammates. The Packers are a genial group unfairly lumped together by the public under the surly image of their best player. Some say Sharpe costs his teammates as much money with his locker room behavior as he makes them with his catches.



24. So the defending Central champion Lions just let the Packers run past them? Not so fast. Maybe Scott Mitchell wasn't so effective once the league's defenses figured him out at the end of last season, but he still has awesome weapons in Barry Sanders, Herman Moore, and eventually Johnnie Morton. The Lions defense upgraded itself with every offseason position change, particularly in adding linebacker Mike Johnson.

25. We heard the Lions are going to allow beer in the locker room. Is this true? They have no choice: They have one on their team. Guy named Thomas Beer, linebacker from Wayne State. They acquired Beer by drafting him, of course.

26. How much of a difference will Warren Moon make in Minnesota? He'll do better than Tommy Kramer, Wade Wilson, Rich Gannon, Sean Salisbury, and Jim McMahon, if that's what you mean.



STEVE WOLTMANN

27. But Moon won't have the offensive help he had in Houston, right? Wrong. Perhaps you remember running back **Terry Allen**, who has had a full year to recover from reconstructive surgery after a knee injury at the beginning of training camp last year. He's expected to be 100% by the start of the season, which means—if he's anywhere close to his form of 1992—he'll break 1,000 yards and score 10 or 15 touchdowns.

28. Is it true the Buccaneers have this bright young draft choice who could be the league's best rookie? Yes. He's strong, fearless, and more punishing than fast—much like his former hero who now plays for the Dallas Cowboys. Meet running back Errict Rhett. This former Florida star reminds scouts of another former Gator, Emmitt Smith. What, you thought we were going to say Trent Dilfer? C'mon, you know rookie quarterbacks never do anything until Week 14.

29. Has Curtis Conway found Chicago's O'Hare Field yet? It doesn't matter. Conway, the Bears rookie who missed the team plane last year because he didn't know how to find the airport, now will

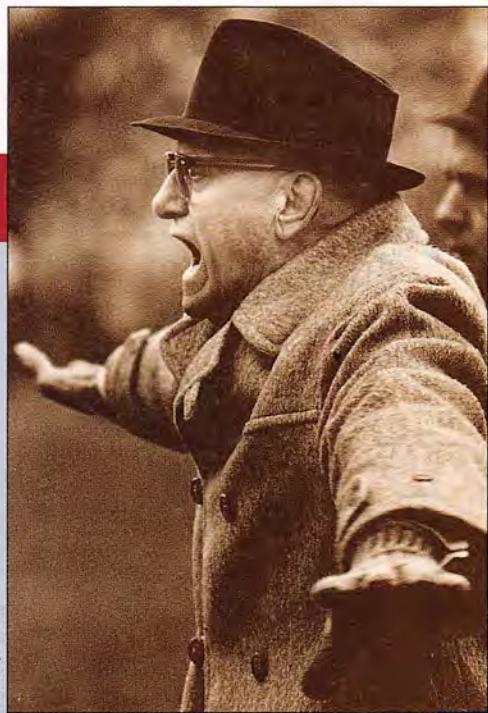
have Erik Kramer throwing to him and Lewis Tillman and Tim Worley setting him up with the run. This year the Bears offense is good enough find him.

30. Watching John Elway duel Jim Kelly in Buffalo was great, even though the game lasted five hours. How about our next prime game? How about October 2 in Cincinnati: the Bengals vs. the Miami Dolphins. Shula vs. Shula. Father vs. son. This one will be worth it just for the postgame handshake.

31. Did somebody say something about some new rules this year? What you heard was the screaming of coaches. The three major new rules are

(1) a two-point conversion, (2) missed field goals being returned to the spot of the kick instead of the line of scrimmage, and (3) kick-offs being moved from the 35-yard line back to the 30.

32. That two-point conversion will be the new rule with the most impact, right? Wrong. Coaches are scared to death of it and never will use it when an extra-point kick will be enough to tie.



VERNON J. BIEVER
"Halas would call a lot of today's owners sons of bitches—and he'd say it right to their faces."

DITKA ON: The NFL's New Guard

IN THE OLD DAYS, THE OWNERS would hire a coach who was responsible for putting the team together. He had a tremendous amount to do with the draft and was involved in all trades. What we have now is a changing of the guard with the new breed of NFL owner. Some of them made their money in business and some of them inherited their money, but it's an ego thing that I see now.

In watching the NFL draft, I don't think I saw any of the draftees stand up with any coaches—they all seemed to stand up with the owners. And in reading the newspapers covering the draft the next day, I saw the same thing.

If George Halas were alive today I think he'd call a lot of today's owners sons of bitches. He'd say that they've lost their goddamn minds, and he'd say it right to their faces. He'd say that they've forgotten about the integrity of the game and that they worry too much about themselves.

Here's a guy who, whether you liked him or you didn't like him—and I don't think anybody who ever played for him liked him all the time—vowed to keep [the NFL] going year to year. He was the guy who made sure there was revenue sharing, so Green Bay got its share of TV money just like New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. I don't know if that would happen today with the greed I see.

The old-time owners' main concern was the game—to make the game the best game it can be, to improve it and refine it. That's not the main concern I see with the owners and the league today. The NFL has become a marketing, merchandising arm. It's more important to sell T-shirts, jackets, and caps than it is to carry on the prestige of the league. That's not sour grapes—it's just what I see happening in the game today.

It's become an owner thing now. It became very evident with the emergence of Jerry Jones. For example, you would never see Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt or New York Giants owner Wellington Mara ever getting involved hands-on like some of these owners do today. They simply had too much class. They're not showboats. Today it's pure showmanship because it's big business, and there's no question that it really started with Jerry Jones.

A lot of people thought that the Jones-Jimmy Johnson association was the relationship of the century, but anybody who knew it knew that it wasn't. The problem there was that both egos were too dynamic—but the guy who owns the ball and bat calls the shots. I learned that when I was a kid. Jones got rid of a good coach, and he's probably going to cause that organization to sink pretty quickly. □

33. Will any of the new rules change the game?

Yes, the rule changing the spot for a missed field goal. In the past, for example, a missed 52-yard field goal was returned to the 35-yard line. Now it'll be returned to the spot of the kick, or the 42-yard line. Super Bowls have been decided by less than seven yards.

34. So instead of taking a chance on turning the

through a tiny speaker in his helmet.

37. Are there any quarterbacks who are opposed to this new technology? Only Brett Favre, because you can't talk back.

38. Whatever happened to that speaker system inside the 30-yard line that was tested during the pre-season last year? The "audibilizer" would have been implemented during the regular season,

in Chicago: the Bears vs. the Green Bay Packers. That night, that field, the oldest rivals in the NFL—is there anything about this event that won't make it memorable?

41. Is it true that ESPN2 talk show host Jim Rome is still referring to the Los Angeles Rams quarterback as "Chris"? Yes, because the new Rams quarterback is Chris—Chris Miller.

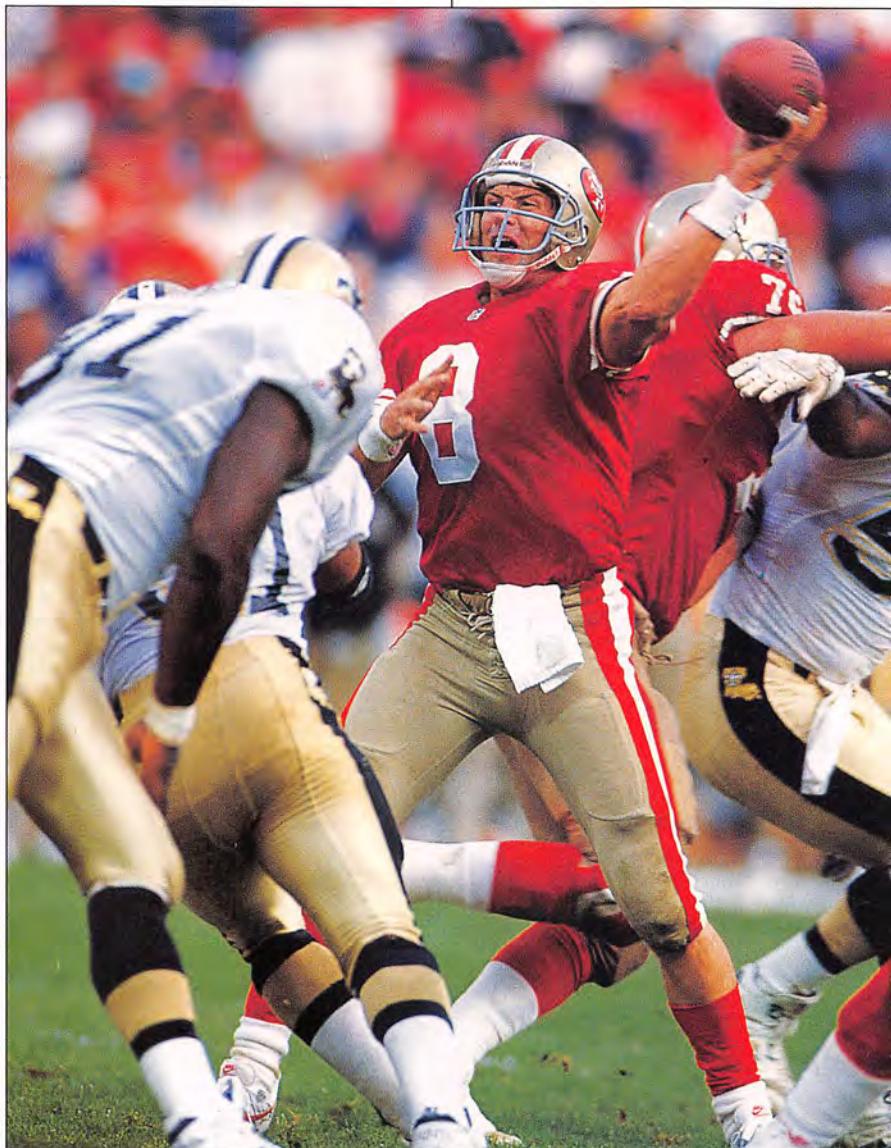
42. Do the Rams really think Miller can stay sound for an entire season? You didn't see them drafting Trent Dilfer when they had the chance, did you? The Rams are, in fact, basing their entire season on the notion that Miller will appear in 16 games for the first time in his career. They also need Jerome Bettis to appear just as he did last year—the consummate running back and locker room inspiration.

43. That said, do you think the Rams will be among the NFC West powers? The only direction the Rams are moving is east—as in, to Baltimore or St. Louis after this season.

44. Does this mean we have to put up with another season of San Francisco 49ers domination in the NFC West? Sure looks like it. And this time, Dallas might not be able to keep them from the Super Bowl. Half of the 49ers defense will be new and improved, led by linebacker Ken Norton and rookie tackle Bryant Young. Their offense is already unmatched. If **Steve Young** overcomes Montana in September, he'll have the confidence to do anything.

45. Is Jim Mora in trouble in New Orleans? The coach has been given the tools to avoid another late-season slide. For his job's sake, he'd better use them. He was given Jim "Don't Call Me Chris" Everett in a trade that should help Everett regain his poise. He was given big-play receiver Michael Haynes. And he was given two top rookies—end Joe Johnson of Louisville and linebacker Winfred Tubbs of Texas—to help rebuild an aging defense.

46. But who is going to be the Saints' featured running back? Who isn't? If everybody is sound, Mora could start the year with four runners



TONI DIFACE

ball over at midfield, most coaches now will go for the first down on fourth down around the 40? No. The owners only *think* this rule will mean more fourth-down conversions. Don't kid yourself, though. Most coaches already have said they'll pooch-punt from the 40.

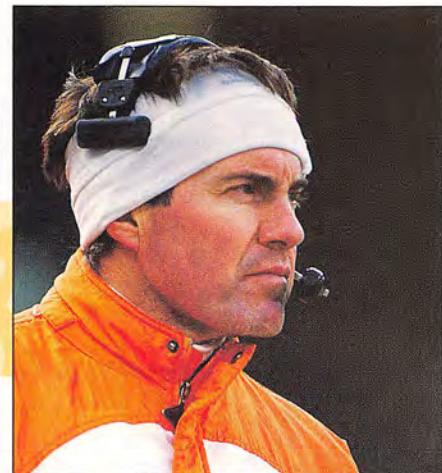
35. Is this the beginning of the end of domination by kickers? You decide. In this year's draft, among 222 selections, just one kicker was taken.

36. We hear that radio technicians now will be more important to teams than kickers. What does that mean? That refers to this year's inaugural use of a quarterback-coach radio. With it, a coach can whisper a play into a microphone on the sidelines and the quarterback will hear that play

except inventor Randy May couldn't manufacture them fast enough. When the NFL decided it wanted it, May had just one in his shop. The device will be tested again during this pre-season and is tentatively scheduled to be implemented during this year's playoffs.

39. Is there any team opposed to the audibilizer? Cleveland, of course, where the word "audible" is conspicuously absent from coach **Bill Belichick's** dictionary, along with "smile" and "offense."

40. So we've just seen the Shulas going jaw to jaw at midfield after a controversial victory for the son. Our next prime game? October 31, Halloween night



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

who could start for many other teams: Vaughn Dunbar, Derek Brown, Lorenzo Neal, and rookie Mario Bates.

47. Does anybody like Jeff George? We love Jeff George outside of Indianapolis, which is where this enigmatic quarterback is after being traded to the Atlanta Falcons. Away from the pressure of home, surrounded by players who share his hard-nosed attitude, George is finally in a climate where his outstanding natural ability can flourish.

48. But don't the Falcons always have a rank defense? Not this year, not after signing free-agent cornerbacks Kevin Ross and D.J. Johnson, then trading for defensive end Chris Doleman. And think what defensive tackle Pierce Holt will do now that he's comfortable in the system. Look for the Falcons to pressure the 49ers like never before.

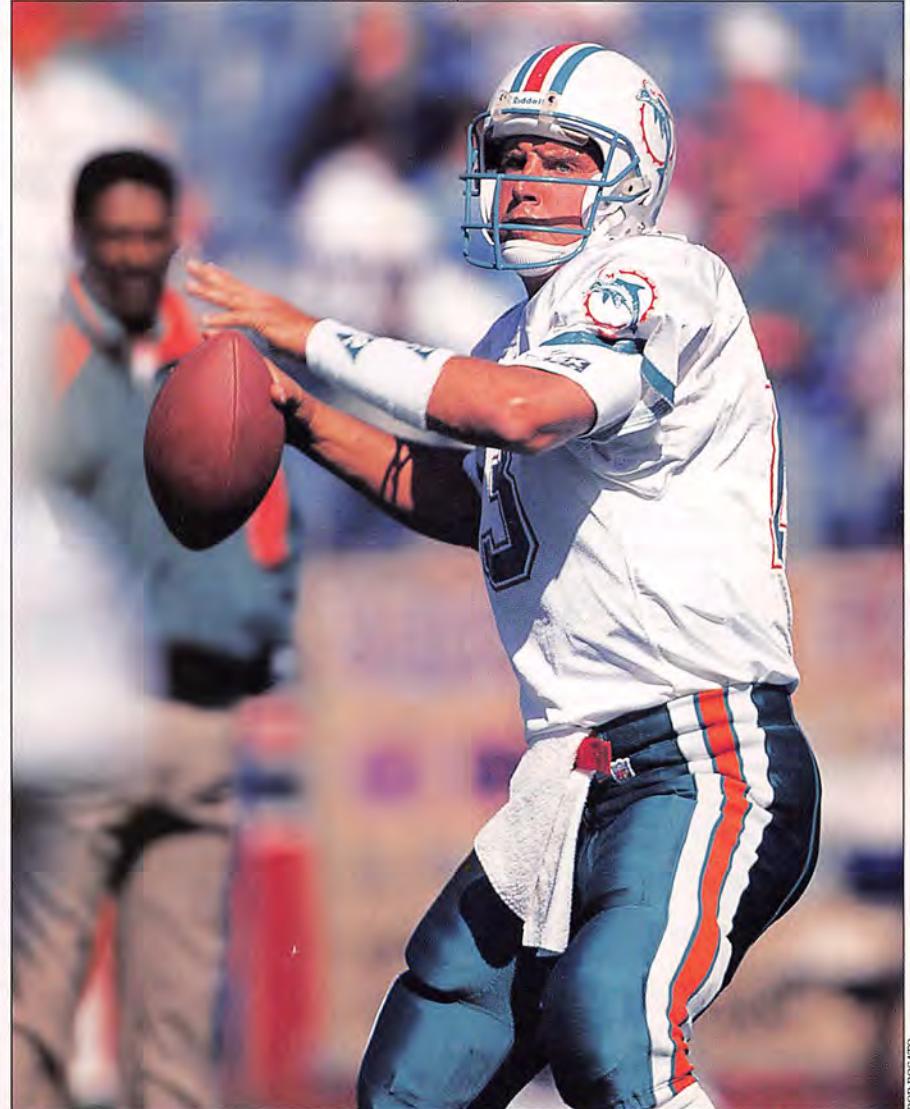
49. The Falcons have had talent in the past, haven't they? Hasn't something always stopped them? Yes. His name was Jerry Glanville. But if the team doesn't want to listen to him this year, all they have to do is switch the channel from Fox. The respected June Jones has taken Glanville's place.

50. The violence during that Bears-Packers game on Halloween was unbelievable. Bodies were flying, bones were crunching—and the action on the field was pretty good, too. Where should we go now? To San Francisco on November 13: 49ers vs. the Dallas Cowboys in a rematch of the last two NFC championship games. If the 49ers don't choke here—as they've done each time these teams have met in the past two years—they'll be ready for a Super Bowl run.

51. With so much emphasis being placed on off-field matters in the NFL these days, shouldn't there be Pro Bowl awards for football's front-office types? Good idea. Our Pro Bowl owner would be the 49ers' **Eddie DeBartolo Jr.**

who spends gobs of money and stays out of the way. The general manager would be John Butler of the Buffalo Bills, who has helped his team win an unprecedented four consecutive AFC crowns by knowing this game from the splintered bleachers to the board rooms. The assistant general manager and college scouting guru would be Bob Ackles of the Arizona Cardinals, who helped rebuild the Cowboys before he was fired for caring too much about the players.

52. Where are the NFL's best tail-gate parties? Get there early in Kansas City if you like to eat your ribs and chicken with plenty of room. Thousands of Chiefs fans join the party—so



BOB ROSATO

many that by game time a thick cloud of smoke has almost obscured the parking lot.

53. Where are the best pregame parking lot football games played? The legendary games in Lot 6 at the Los Angeles Coliseum before Raiders games are so good fans sometimes miss the start of the "real" game so they can catch every sandlot play. Outside the stadiums in most every other NFL city, fans play touch football; on the pavement outside the Coliseum they play tackle, flying into grills of cars, turning over flaming hibachis, and slicing their wrists on hood ornaments.

54. Yeah, but Raiders tail-gaters don't hurt anybody but themselves, right? Right. Although there was the time they tore the jersey off a loudmouthed Bills fan and barbecued it.

55. Will you explain the salary cap and all its ramifications? No.

56. Have any players actually benefited from the salary cap? Yes, members of the San Francisco 49ers. They were able to skip a couple of weeks of offseason workouts because the team didn't have enough money under the cap to hold those workouts. At the time, in late March, the 49ers were less than \$500 under the cap.

57. Is there any reason to think anyone in the AFC East can overtake the Buffalo Bills this year? There are two: a healthy **Dan Marino** and an improved Miami Dolphins defense. The Dolphins could have won the division last year if Marino hadn't torn his Achilles tendon and cornerback Troy Vincent hadn't been injured on that snowy field in Dallas on Thanksgiving Day. Marino is back, new safeties Gene Atkins and Michael Stewart are in town, and the running back duo of Terry Kirby and Keith Byars is going to be better after their first year as Dolphins.

58. Didn't Dolphins coach Don Shula break one of George Halas' records last year? Yes. George Halas never lost five consecutive games like the Dolphins lost at the end of the season. OK, Shula also became the league's all-time coaching victories leader with 327 wins. There were times last year he might have given up the second record to have avoided the first.

59. So you are discounting the Bills? Not any more than any other team that lost its house during the offseason. Tackle Howard (House)



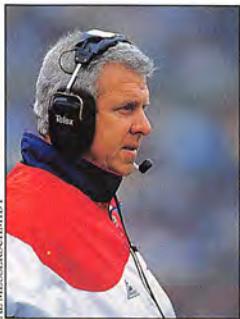
RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT

Ballard, one of the most important members of the Bills' enduring offense, went to Seattle as a free agent because the Bills couldn't pay him under the salary cap. Pro Bowl cornerback Nate Odomes followed. You can succeed with a chip on your shoulder for only so long. This is the year the Bills finally give in to the law of NFL gravity.

60. Shouldn't the Indianapolis Colts challenge the Dolphins and Bills with first-round draft pick Marshall Faulk? Yes, but they would have challenged them a lot more with first-round draft pick Heath Shuler. At least nice-guy coach Ted Marchibroda won't have to spend the entire season fretting over a Jim Harbaugh-led offense. Marchibroda probably will be fired before January.

61. What did the New York Jets do to help their roster? You mean firing coach Bruce Coslet and

replacing him with respected defensive coordinator Pete Carroll wasn't enough?



A. MESSERSCHMIDT

62. Won't the New England Patriots be everybody's trendy pick to make the playoffs?

They should be, because they *will* make the playoffs. With all these old New York Giants in the locker room and an increasingly impatient **Bill Parcells** on the sidelines, this team will mature and toughen right before our eyes.

63. Time for another prime game—something in early December. Ideas? Don't miss Arizona at Houston on December 4: Buddy Ryan vs. his former team and sparring partner Kevin Gilbride. In an unprecedented move, the league is rating this game "R" (violence, profanity).

64. Who's going to be this year's MVP? Emmitt Smith, again. Not even close, again.

65. Coach of the year? Dave Wannstedt could have won it last year, but his overachieving Bears hid in December. That won't happen again.

66. Offensive and defensive rookies of the year? There won't be another Jerome Bettis this year, but Faulk will be given the ball enough times to win offensive rookie honors. Jamir Miller will play such a visible role as a rushing linebacker for Buddy Ryan's Arizona Cardinals that he'll be the defensive favorite.

67. Which expansion entry is doing a better job developing a team for 1995: Carolina or Jacksonville? Even though Jacksonville already has a coach and several key front-office officials—including an executive hired just to figure out the salary cap—we prefer Carolina's slower approach. If

the Jaguars had waited two months before hiring a coach, they could have had Jimmy Johnson. (Nothing against Tom Coughlin, but how many times has he won consecutive Super Bowls?) By waiting, Carolina is putting itself in a good position to hire Joe Gibbs in January 1995, when Gibbs will be ready after two full years of vacation.

68. But we aren't going to have to pay attention to

them in a position to contend in the AFC Central without him. They added standout cornerback Don Griffin, then drafted potentially great cornerback Antonio Langham in the first round. Also in the first round, they gave underrated receiver Michael Jackson some help by drafting wideout Derrick Alexander.

70. But aren't the Browns still going to rely on Vinny Testaverde at quarterback? And what's wrong



JON SOODOR/BERNSTEIN & ASSOC.

Carolina or Jacksonville this year, right? Not true. If these two 1995 expansion entries get their wish, the league will allow them to begin stocking their team with free agents during this season. For example, if the Great Bernie Kosar Cut of 1993 took place this year, Kosar might sign with an expansion team and voluntarily miss the final two months of the season to prepare for 1995.

69. Speaking of Kosar, has he been forgotten in Cleveland yet? Never. But the Browns have made some smart offseason moves that could put

with that? Testaverde was the sixth-rated quarterback in the league last year while throwing for more touchdowns (14) than interceptions (nine) for the first time in his career. He continues to improve.

71. Do the Browns have enough to catch the Houston Oilers in the AFC Central? Nobody knows—especially not the Oilers, who once again are football's mystery team. With Cody Carlson replacing Warren Moon in a slightly altered offense, they won't pass as much. With defensive ends William Fuller and Sean Jones gone,

they probably won't pressure the quarterback as much. But with Buddy Ryan gone, they will work together much better.

72. Can the Pittsburgh Steelers win with controversial running back Barry Foster? A better question would be, can they win without him? The people on that team—and in that town—should end all the gossip that Foster is a malingerer and a bad influence, and give him one more chance. Now that the team has at least one speedy wide receiver with good hands—top draft pick Charles Johnson—it could advance more than one round in the playoffs—but only with Barry.

73. And will the Cincinnati Bengals finish last in the AFC Central again? Probably. But suddenly no team in the league is as young or exciting, from emerging quarterback **David Klingler**, to wide receivers Carl Pickens and Darnay Scott, to defensive linemen John Copeland and Dan (Big Daddy) Wilkinson, to safety Darryl Williams.

74. Time for another prime game in December. Your recommendation? Go where everyone goes when winter nears—to Florida. On December 12: the Miami Dolphins vs. the Kansas City Chiefs. There are worse ways to spend winter evenings than sitting in 70-degree temperatures watching Montana duel Marino.

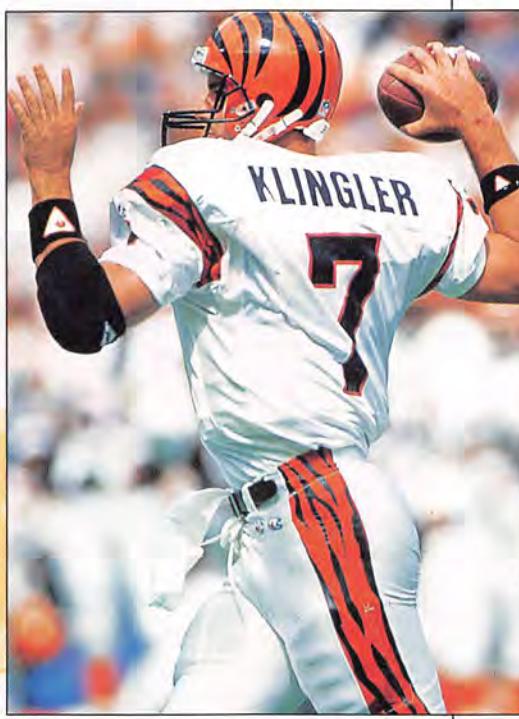
75. Can you explain that new league policy about watching NFL games on satellite? The good news for fans is that every game not regionally broadcast to your area now will be broadcast over one satellite, which will make those games easy to pick up and better to watch because of improved reception. The bad news is that satellite owners now must pay for this service—around \$100 per year—or those games will be scrambled.

76. Will our local bar with the satellite dish on top still broadcast NFL games from our hometown team? Probably. All except the tiniest places will be able to earn back the cost of the service in a couple of Sundays.

77. Isn't the NFL being greedy for charging for something that previously was free? Not when sports bars have been making thousands of dollars every Sunday from fans gathering to watch these games. The NFL is just claiming what legally belongs to it.

78. Which team has the best cheerleaders? Cheerleaders in the NFL have become irrelevant. Only those with front-row seats or high-powered field glasses can even see them. And NFL fans generally invent their own cheers—i.e., the Dog Pound in Cleveland—or just want to be left alone.

79. Who is the best-dressed NFL coach? Nobody can compete with the sideline suits of the New York Giants' Dan Reeves. Reeves looks like he just walked out of church—which, come to think of it, is the way a person ought to look on a Sunday afternoon. When the weather turns,



Reeves blankets those suits with way-cool trench coats.

80. Who is the worst-dressed coach?

We're still waiting for baggy Bobby Ross of the San Diego Chargers to buy some pants that fit.

81. With football being played on Christmas weekend this year, is there any prime game we can attend that will put us in the spirit? How about spending Christmas Eve in the Los Angeles Coliseum: Raiders vs. the Kansas City Chiefs. Before you hug Santa Claus, though, make sure he's not packing.

82. Anything else exciting going to be happening in the AFC West? Everything exciting will be happening there, in football's best and most competitive division. Any one of the five teams can win the division. At least three of those teams have a reasonable chance to represent the AFC in the Super Bowl.

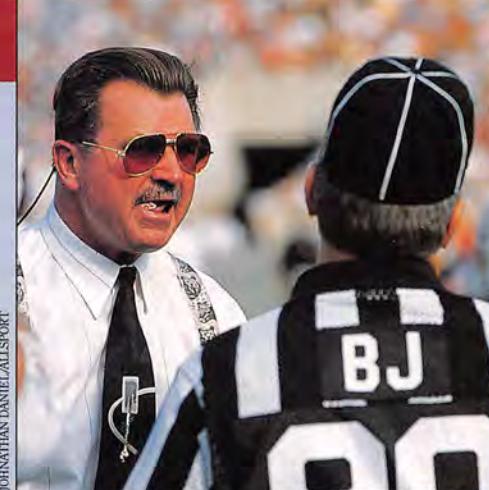
DITKA ON:

Rules Changes

I DON'T THINK THE NEW TWO-point conversion rule is going to be used a whole heck of a lot, but it'll have some merit somewhere down the line if a team really has a chance to win a game that means something. I don't think a lot of teams are going to go out of their way if the game's on the line, whether they're losing it or winning it. They're going to end up taking the tie in a lot of cases because it really doesn't count against you. You'll probably see it used if it's a situation where the two points would put you in a position to win it with a field goal or win it with a touchdown. But you've got to realize that it's not an easy thing to put the ball on the 2-yard line and run it or throw it into the endzone.

I think changing the spot of a missed field goal is a good rule. It's going to stop a lot of these guys from whacking those 50-yard field goals. I mean, let's face it: That's a big shift in field position, and football—contrary to what a lot of people think—is basically a game of field position. It's strategy and chess and a lot of things, but mainly it's field position. If you end up with effective field position you should have the best opportunity to score more points, and if you score more points you should win the game—I mean, that's just what it comes down to. There's a theory if you make the other team go 80 yards seven times in a game, make them go from inside their 20 seven times, you'll beat them. And the percentage of times you'll beat them is something like 96%. It's true; just too many bad things happen in a 10- or 15-play drive.

I've been fighting for radios in helmets for years, but not the coach-quarterback radio that will be used this season to send the quarterback plays. I've been fighting for a radio for the quarterback to audible, so his voice can be heard by the tackles. Those are the guys who are out on an island out there with the defensive ends jumping at them. I think that's an unfair advantage. □



Ditka and friend: "Football is basically a game of field position."

83. Isn't there bad blood between the Los Angeles Raiders and the Denver Broncos?

That's an understatement. What was a nice little grudge match turned really ugly this summer when the Broncos tried to steal **Tim Brown** from the Raiders. After matching the \$11 million offer to Brown, Al Davis said of the Broncos, "They can't beat us on the field or off the field." Still, while the attempted heist didn't work, the Broncos forced Davis to pay his wide receiver so much money the Raiders couldn't afford a top veteran running back or linebacker.



ID: CUBAN/ALLSPORT

84. So the Raiders had a better offseason than the Broncos? Just barely. For every move the Raiders made, the Broncos made a corresponding one. The Raiders matched Tim Brown; the Broncos signed receiver Anthony Miller and traded for receiver Mike Pritchard. The Raiders signed cornerback Albert Lewis; the Broncos signed cornerback Ray Crockett. The Raiders signed tackle Kevin Gogan; the Broncos...well, Gogan is the difference.

85. So which is the better team? The Raiders are deeper and tougher, and will win not just the division but the entire conference. The Broncos probably will lose to L.A. in the AFC Championship Game.

86. What about Joe? Joe Montana certainly will have a more relaxed start this year for the Kansas City Chiefs, what with the league's attention having turned to Buddy Ryan and Barry Switzer. However, even the greatest quarterback ever will have difficulty scoring enough points to compensate for a defense that lost linebacker Lonnie Marts and cornerbacks Kevin Ross and Albert Lewis.

87. Will Seattle Seahawks quarterback Rick Mirer have a sophomore slump? Like his New England counterpart, Drew Bledsoe, Mirer is too smart for that. He's not only more mature than last year, but he'll be better protected by new tackle

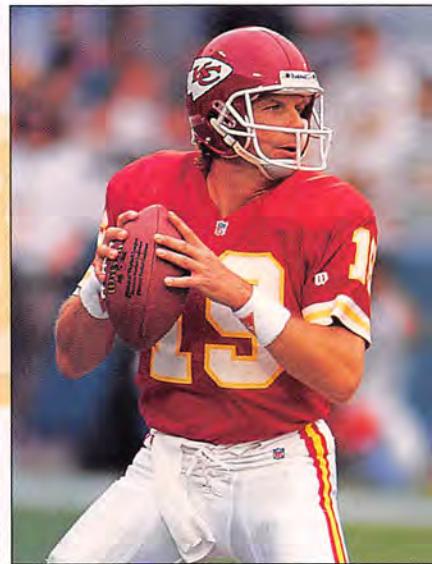
Howard (House) Ballard. With receiver Brian Blades healthy and running back Chris Warren a bona fide threat, the Seahawks finally have enough offense.

88. What happened to defensive tackle Cortez Kennedy last year—and will it happen again this year?

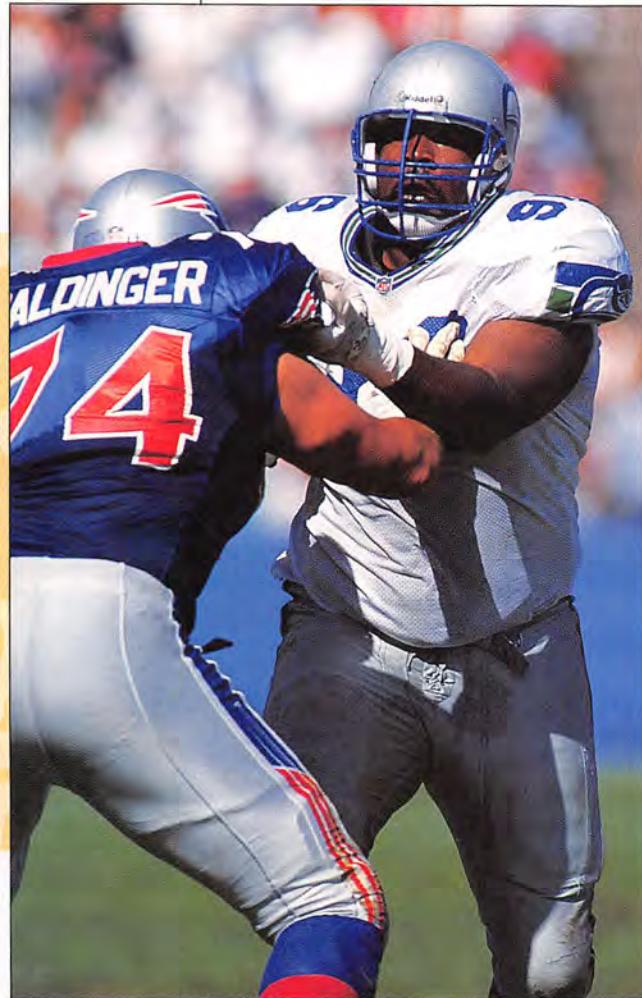
Kennedy, the league's premier defensive player in 1992, was triple-teamed throughout most of last season because the Seahawks didn't have another lineman to deflect the attention. They do now: first-round pick Sam Adams from Texas A&M. That defense also has added Pro Bowl cornerback Nate Odomes.

89. That leaves the San Diego Chargers as the worst team in the division? Not quite. Like everyone else, the Chargers can

win the division. The reason can be explained in two words: Natrone Means. With Marion Butts finally out of the way after being traded to New England, Means can get considerably more than the 160 carries he was given last year. He averaged four yards per carry—better than six of the AFC's top eight running backs—and scored eight touchdowns, tying for fifth among all running backs in the league.

90. But is Chargers quarterback Stan Humphries

TOM DIPACE



JIM COMMENT/ALLSPORT

really the answer? We'll find out in the next six months whether he can handle the heat. Humphries has young wide receivers, he might be playing behind two rookie offensive linemen, and his only legitimate backup is Gale Gilbert.

91. What's the surprise team of 1994? The Seattle Seahawks. With a fifth-place schedule and a first-rate program, they could do some damage, maybe even flip-flop last year's 6-10 record.

92. The bust team of 1994? The New Orleans Saints. Those five consecutive losses at the end of last season were no mirage. This team may get a lot worse before it gets any better.

93. And if we wanted to attend one final prime game, in January, what would that be? The Super Bowl, silly. Even if it's another bad game, and even if it's in tourist-tough Miami, the spectacle alone is worth \$175. It will also be worth it to watch the Raiders and the 49ers battle in a rematch of the season's first Monday night game.

94. And the winner of that game? Who do we look like, Kreskin? OK, the 49ers—by a two-point conversion. ■

BILL PLASCHKE covers the NFL for the Los Angeles Times. He is the author of two books, including an autobiography of Los Angeles Rams coach Chuck Knox entitled "Hard Knox: The Life of an NFL Coach."



MORE THAN A FRAGRANCE
IT'S A FORCE OF NATURE

GRAVITY

YOU COULDN'T RESIST IT, EVEN IF YOU TRIED

COLOGNE FOR MEN

GRAVITY

COLOGNE

The Good Son

*Chris Zorich
beat the mean
streets of Chicago's
South Side to become
a Bear, but his biggest fan
isn't here to share his joy*

By JEFF RYAN

ON THE SECOND THUNDEROUS kick, the apartment door still didn't budge. The four locks that had protected Zora Zorich from the more brazen evildoers of Chicago's scarred South Side were doing their job. It had always been Chris Zorich's biggest fear that those locks—all that stood between their home and the gangs and the druggies in a part of the Windy City where people who expressed a fear of getting blown away weren't referring to the gusts coming off Lake Michigan—wouldn't hold up nearly as well as Mom did each day.

The half-dozen times the Zoriches had been robbed, nobody was home. That's why they could laugh about it. Upon returning to the scene of the crime, Zora and Chris would always joke that the intruder probably took one look at what their \$140 a month in rent provided and said, "Damn, somebody hit this place already!"

Now, on the frigid morning of January 2, 1991, here was Chris Zorich, a knot in his stomach and a worst-case scenario in his head, praying for the first time that those locks would break apart—and fast. Zora hadn't met him at the airport and hadn't answered the door when he reached the apartment. It had to be something bad.

Zorich's foot crashed against the wood one more time, and the door finally flew open. He raced into the apartment, and there was his mother, stretched out on the hallway floor. She was ice-cold, dead of a heart attack at the age of 59. Leaning over, he gave her a kiss on the lips and whispered, "Goodbye, Mom. I love you."

The night before, the All-America nose guard from Notre Dame had sat on a sideline in Miami and cried like a newborn, overwhelmed not by the Irish's 10-9 loss to Colorado, but by the realization that he was just a semester away from concluding the four greatest years of his life. He spoke with his mother on the phone at 4 a.m., then boarded a plane two hours later for the trip home. Some players were bringing back oranges for their moms; Zorich was bringing his mother the MVP trophy from the Orange Bowl.

What a perfect story it was turning out to be. An only child, he had gone from the protective arms of his mother in an urban hell to the upraised arms of Touchdown Jesus in a football heaven. The NFL draft was in three months, and graduation day was in four. Now, though, everything had come crashing down. Mom was dead. *No, God, no. It can't be happening.*

How much macaroni and cheese did Zora eat, how many mousetraps did she set, and how many nights without heat did

she shiver through while awaiting her son's two climactic days? While in South Bend, Zorich spent his precious few dollars on calls home every night. After he assured her that his homework was done and she assured him that her door was bolted, son and mother would talk about how an NFL roster spot or corporate title for him was going to give her the kind of life she deserved.

"I wanted to move her out of there," says Zorich. "When I was being recruited, I agreed to go to Notre Dame before [coach] Lou Holtz could visit my house because I was afraid something might crawl across the kitchen floor while he was there."

"A lot of nights when I called, my mom would sing 'Wind Beneath My Wings' to me. She always said I was her hero. My mom didn't have the greatest singing voice in the world, but I sure wish I could hear it now."

And he wishes she could hear the shouts, grunts, and collision of pads when he throws himself all over Soldier Field as a defensive tackle for the Chicago Bears. For years the Bears had been one of the Zoriches' few escapes from a life that revolved around \$200 a month in public assistance and offered no one to rely on but each other. Zora was Yugoslavian, and Chris' father was black. He took off when she told him about the pregnancy; Zorich doesn't know his father's name and never has seen his picture, and wants to keep it that way.

To Chris and Zora, George Halas, Mike Ditka, and Mike Singletary were the men of the house, Soldier Field was a cathedral with goal posts, and the NFC Central—the "Black-and-Blue Division"—was the only place real football was played. Zora dressed her son in a Bears uniform when he was barely taller than a kicking tee, and he even went on to play defense at Dick Butkus' alma mater, Chicago Vocational High School. "It hurts so much that she can't see me now," says the 25-year-old Zorich. "She would be absolutely thrilled."

Most mothers hope their sons don't grow up to be monsters. Zora Zorich would be proud to know her son did. He's No. 97 in your program, a Monster of the Midway.

The Fridge with the upper-case "F" may be gone from the Bears defensive line, but Zorich and the fridge with the lower-case "f" remain an inseparable combination. There is one thing, however, that even the 275-pound Zorich won't eat. In the freezer of the suburban Chicago house he shares with a friend, you can find a mysterious leftover wrapped in aluminum foil and marked with the warning: DO NOT EAT OR ELSE!



"Mom didn't have the greatest singing voice in the world, but I wish I could hear it now."

The spoil in the foil is a turkey leg, part of the big bird awarded by broadcaster John Madden to the Bears defense after Chicago stuffed and basted the Detroit Lions 10-6 this past Thanksgiving Day. Zorich would go so far as to put his prized piece of poultry in a trophy case if only it wouldn't turn as nasty as his disposition at kickoff time. "I'd like to get somebody to shellac it," he says.

It's a brother thing, like, 'You don't go too hard after me, and I won't go too hard after you.' There's none of that thinking in Chris."

When Dave Wannstedt gave up his position as defensive coordinator for the Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys and accepted the Bears' head coaching job last year, he made the rebuilding of Chicago's crumbling defense his first priority. By the

He ought to consider doing the job himself. Last season Zorich shellacked anyone who wasn't wearing navy and orange—and even a few guys who were. In his first year as a starter he finished third on the team in tackles (121) and sacks (seven), and made 11 tackles in three different games. At times his intensity level could be downright frightening, which explains why he also led the Bears in the unofficial category of most altercations started in practice (too many to count).

"In practice, Chris is a talker who gets on the offense and gets in quite a few scuffles," says Bears defensive end Trace Armstrong. "When you go up against your own guys, they expect a kind of mercy.

time Wannstedt arrived, the slow and aging Mummies of the Midway were living on their reputation with little to back it up. Clawless and clueless, the Bears finished 5-11 in '92, and their defense ranked 17th out of the NFL's 28 teams.

Under Wannstedt and new defensive coordinator Bob Slowik, Chicago improved to 7-9 last season and vaulted to fourth in total. D. Wannstedt and Slowik emphasized a swarming, big-play style that used only three fronts but attacked continually off each. "Our defense played extremely well last season, and Zorich was a big reason for that," says Wannstedt. "Our attacking style fits perfectly with his athletic ability and quickness. Because of our offensive problems, our defense was under more pressure than most, yet Chris played as well last year as any defensive tackle I've been around."

"Chris' gift is great hustle," adds Armstrong. "He has no problem running 25 yards downfield on a pass play to assist on the tackle."

"I want to make every tackle," Zorich says simply. "I'm three inches from the ball when it's hiked, so I figure there's no reason I shouldn't be three inches from it when the play's over."

Though the Bears had a string of seven



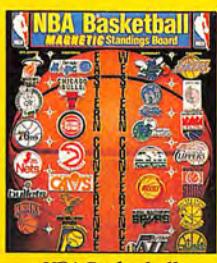
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straight shutout quarters early in the season, it was on Thanksgiving Day that the new Monsters of the Midway seemed to jell like cranberry sauce. Zorich made 11 tackles, but for him the afternoon wasn't quite as satisfying as it could have been. "It would have been better with no Astroturf and no dome," he says. "I wish we played them in Tiger Stadium in the snow and the mud, like in the old days. *That* was Bears football."

And that is Chris Zorich. Fearing that his game jersey might be washed by the team after the final contest of the season, he whisked it into his gym bag before it could be whisked around the collar. "I wanted mine dirty and sweaty," he says. "You can still smell it."

There are indeed times when Zorich looks, sounds, and acts very much like the worst stereotype of an iron-pumpin', chest-thumpin', Gatorade bucket-dumpin' football player. And he's damn proud of it. No matter what the weather is in Chicago, Zorich refuses to wear a long-sleeved shirt under his jersey. "Bare arms," he says. "This is Chicago. I grew up playing football on the sidewalk in the snow. There are no wimps in this city." Says Armstrong: "Chris is a legitimate tough guy."

As if he could have turned out to be any-

thing else. One way or another, fate was always starting Zorich out with bad field position and then daring him to dig out of it. Not dark enough to suit the black kids in his neighborhood or light enough to please the white ones, he had to endure the abuse of both until he eventually bulked up to the width of the Sears Tower. He brought a 740 SAT score into Notre Dame—where the average for incoming freshmen who don't wear shoulder pads is reportedly around 1,200—and had to hit the books even harder than he hit the running backs just to survive. And at 6'1", he was supposed to be too small to play nose guard at Notre Dame and defensive tackle in the NFL.

"I get knocked on my ass a lot, and I hear 'short' jokes," he says, "but if there's a guy 6'6" and 295 pounds in front of me, I get myself even more pumped up to get the sack. I guess I'm used to fighting hard for everything. Especially respect."

There are signs that the battle is, if not over, at least entering the late rounds. Last season Zorich was thrilled when the Raiders' Howie Long approached him after a game and said, "I followed you in college, and I'm glad you're getting a chance to play here." The real rush, however, came when Zorich sacked Jim McMahon, a family hero when he was Super Bowl shuffling for

Chicago in 1985-86 but just another bull's-eye last season when he was standing in the pocket for the Minnesota Vikings.

After McMahon got to his feet, Zorich expected—actually hoped for—some punky response from the punky QB: a curse, a putdown, or maybe some wise comment about how Zorich ought to bring along a foot stool if he ever hopes to deflect a pass. "He looked at me and told me I had done a nice job," says Zorich. "I said to him, 'You're not supposed to tell me that.'"

Despite his recent success, Zorich often looks at the world through teary eyes, and he probably always will. If "Wind Beneath My Wings" comes on the radio, he unravels instantly. Crying through "It's a Wonderful Life" has become as much a part of his Christmas tradition as trimming the tree. That had been Mom's favorite movie, an ironic choice for a woman who too often didn't have hot water in her shower or hot anything in her kitchen. Sometimes Zorich will be riding home from a game and just start sobbing as he stares at the open road ahead.

Zorich's training schedule can accurately be described as religious. On his way to work out every morning, he stops at a church, blesses himself with holy water,

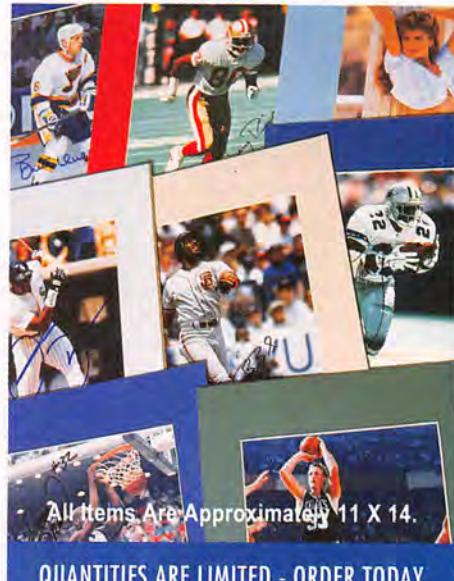
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and finds a pew from which he is sure his mother can hear him. "I tell her every day that I'm trying to live the way she did," he says, "and that I want to be a positive person in society and make her proud."

Often Zorich will unburden himself of his problems. Zora was always there for him, and in many ways she still is. It's her influence that keeps Zorich's emotions balanced and his dark side—his ugly side, his South Side—confined to the playing field.

"I don't really take time to think where my viciousness comes from, but it's probably the streets," says Zorich. "I had a lot of motivation in college knowing that if I



didn't get the grades or make it to the pros, I was going back to the neighborhood."

The combination of harsh streets and tender love has made Zorich a paradox, someone who could spit on one of Notre Dame's opponents on a Saturday afternoon and then go to church on Sunday morning. One of his goals in life—and he says he's serious—is literally to rip the head off a quarterback and watch it roll on the turf. Another goal is to open an orphanage.

Zorich spends every Thursday night eating dinner with the kids at one such place near his home. It's part of his work with the Christopher Zorich Foundation, an organization he launched to keep his mother's ever-upbeat spirit alive. The foundation

provides food for Chicago's poor, raising money through donations, autograph signings, and appearances. Because Zorich always gave Zora flowers on Mother's Day, he spent part of the day this year passing out corsages at a battered women's shelter.

Says Zorich: "I always tell the people I meet what my mom told me: have self-confidence. She said I could make opportunities for myself no matter what my background was. I did, and I'm not going to let any of them slip away."

Chris Zorich could have played on the great Bears teams of the '80s or even those teams in the '60s," Wannstedt says with conviction. "Mr. Halas would have loved to have him on his team."

Zorich doesn't doubt it for a second. "The day I was drafted," he says, laughing, "I knew my mom and Papa Bear made some kind of deal in heaven."

There's something particularly endearing about the kid who not only grows up to play for his hometown team, but remains the local kid in every way. Blue-collar worshippers of "da Bears" know Zorich won't be spending every February sunning himself on the terrace of a Malibu condo while the Midwestern winter makes ice sculptures out of Chicago's citizenry. Instead, he'll be in some inner-city neighborhood, passing out bags of groceries with a smile on his face and a chill in his bones.

"I don't think there are enough mixed [race] role models in society," says Zorich. "That's why a lot of kids from mixed marriages think they have to choose a side. I don't consider myself black or white. I'm biracial." It's not that color doesn't matter to Zorich—it's just that he believes it's far more healthy to draw attention to the Black-and-Blue Division than the black-and-white one.

"I feel," says Zorich, "like I'm living the dream of every Chicago football fan." Indeed he is—but the heart-wrenching irony is that he'll never get to live the biggest dream of his own.

Oh, sure, he'll come close. One day there will be a game in which he makes 12 or 13 tackles, sends a quarterback's head rolling—figuratively, at least—and covers himself with more glory and mud than he ever could have imagined. And when he does, thousands of voices in Soldier Field will roar and call him a hero.

However, the one voice that used to call him that on the phone every night won't be heard among them. That's why, no matter how many ball carriers he knocks on their backs or how many fans he brings to their feet, it can never be the perfect Sunday afternoon Chris Zorich always wanted. ■

"Chris represented to me what I wanted a Chicago Bear to be."

er—in fact, he drove some people crazy because he plays so hard. That's what I was looking for in him. I think he represented to me what I wanted a Chicago Bear to be. He had pride, and he wanted to play for the Bears because he grew up in Chicago. In fact, I had met Chris when he was in high school, and at that time his mother told me that he was going to play for the Bears. I guess I'm a sucker for guys like that—and thank God I am, because you win with guys like that. If I had 40 of those I'd play 40 of anybody else's, I don't care who.

As far as his ability to play football, I think everybody can see he's just nonstop. He simply doesn't quit. He's going to get beat some—he's just human—but he's relentless. And if you beat him once, it doesn't mean you'll ever beat him again, because he's going to learn from his experiences.

Chris is going to be essential to the Bears defense this season because of his quickness. He's got to tie up two people—he can't be blocked by just one guy. His strong point never was pass-rushing, but he's become a much better pass-rusher because of his relentlessness. Technique is wonderful, and you can have all the technique in the world, but if you're relentless in getting to the quarterback, you get there. Chris doesn't have the technique of a Steve McMichael or a Dan Hampton, but he's relentless in his pursuit of the quarterback, and that's why he gets sacks. □

DITKA ON:

Chris Zorich

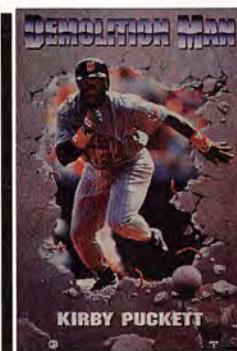
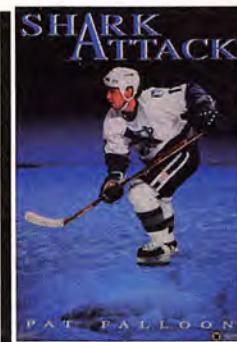
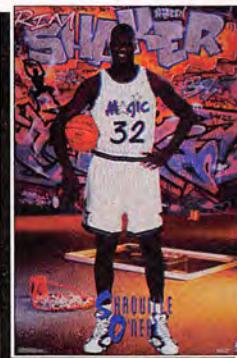
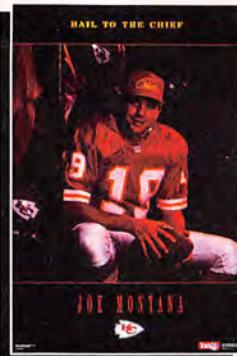
WHEN I EVALUATED CHRIS ZORICH for the 1991 draft, when I looked at everything about his game, the only knock I ever heard about him was his height. And when Russell Maryland—only a half-inch taller than Chris—was selected No. 1 overall in the same draft by the Dallas Cowboys, I knew that knock was a bunch of bull. If you look at production, Chris had every bit of production that Maryland had in college. Therefore I felt we were very fortunate to select him in the second round, because we essentially got a first-round pick.

He's a guy I wanted more than anybody else because of his attitude, enthusiasm, and character. The guy's an absolute joy to coach because he makes his teammates work harder and makes them better. He became a hell of a practice player.



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 CHICAGO BULLS/1993 World Champions - TRIUMPHANT!
 CHICAGO BULLS/Scottie Pippen - AIR RAID
 CLEVELAND CAVALIERS/Mark Price - MARK OF EXCELLENCE
 DENVER NUGGETS/Laphonso Ellis - HIGH ALTITUDE
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CHARLOTTE HORNETS - Alonzo Mourning
 CHARLOTTE HORNETS - Larry Johnson
 CHICAGO BULLS - Scottie Pippen
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 MIAMI HEAT - Harold Miner
 NEW JERSEY NETS - Derrick Coleman
 NEW YORK KNICKS - Patrick Ewing
 ORLANDO MAGIC - Shaquille O'Neal
 PHOENIX SUNS - Charles Barkley
 PHOENIX SUNS - Dan Majerle
 PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS - Clyde Drexler
 SAN ANTONIO SPURS - David Robinson
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◆ MLB/FANTASY

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 ATLANTA BRAVES/D. Justice, R. Gant & T. Pendleton - BAT ATTITUDE
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 COLORADO ROCKIES/David Nied - THE NIED FOR SPEED
 DETROIT TIGERS/Cecil Fielder - BIG DADDY
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 MINNESOTA TWINS/Kirby Puckett - DEMOLITION MAN
 NEW YORK METS/Bobby Bonilla - THE AMAZIN' MET
 NEW YORK YANKEES/Jim Abbott - KING OF THE HILL
 PITTSBURGH PIRATES/Andy Van Slyke - PIRATES TREASURE
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 TORONTO BLUE JAYS/Roberto Alomar - 2ND TO NONE

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 DALLAS COWBOYS/Emmitt Smith - TEXAS TWISTER
 DALLAS COWBOYS/Emmitt Smith - CATCH 22
 DALLAS COWBOYS/Michael Irvin - PLAYMAKER
 DETROIT LIONS/Barry Sanders - ROARING 20
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 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS/D. Thomas & N. Smith - RUSH HOUR
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 NEW YORK GIANTS/Lawrence Taylor - INTIMIDATION
 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS/Drew Bledsoe - PATRIOT GAMES
 PITTSBURGH STEELERS/Barry Foster - STEEL WHEELS
 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS/Junior Seau - SHOCK TREATMENT
 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS/Rickey Watters - RAGING WATTERS
 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS/Steve Young - RUN & GUN
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 WASHINGTON REDSKINS/Desmond Howard - DAWN OF A NEW ERA



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 CINCINNATI BENGALS - David Klingler
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 GREEN BAY PACKERS - Brett Favre
 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS - Jeff Hostetler
 MIAMI DOLPHINS - Dan Marino
 NEW YORK GIANTS - Phil Simms
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 EDMONTON OILERS/Bill Ranford - SAVING GRACE
 LOS ANGELES KINGS/Wayne Gretzky - WAYNE'S WORLD
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 CINCINNATI REDS/Rob Dibble - NASTY!
 CLEVELAND INDIANS/Carlos Baerga - INDIAN SUMMER
 COLORADO ROCKIES/Andre Galarraga - THE BIG CAT
 DETROIT TIGERS/Cecil Fielder - LONG DISTANCE OPERATOR
 DETROIT TIGERS/Travis Fryman - EYE OF THE TIGER
 FLORIDA MARLINS/Benito Santiago - THOU SHALL NOT STEAL
 FLORIDA MARLINS/Gary Sheffield - SHEFF
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Repeat After Bobby

When all is said and done, Bowden's Florida State Seminoles will take the title again

LET US START THIS YEAR'S college football preview by asking: What's so great about the NFL? Most of the games are dull, right? And as for the postseason games—it's all kind of predictable, isn't it? Eight or nine weeks into the regular season we pretty much know who the best two or three teams are. Hell, we usually know who the Super Bowl winner is going to be, don't we? We'd get a much better game if the NFL would abandon the pretense that the AFC and NFC were genuine leagues, if it simply would use a poll or some kind of system to determine who the two best teams are and let them play, instead of perpetuating a system that lets the best team play the fourth- or fifth- or sixth-best team.

In other words, the sports media have it backward. Pro football ought to be a little more like college football.

You who root for Florida or Clemson or North Carolina or Penn State or Stanford or Syracuse or Alabama or Arizona or Michigan or Washington or Texas A&M—

do you think there's something so ridiculously wrong with college football that only a pro-type playoff system will fix it? Do you think the quality of play in major college football is so low that more postseason games would improve it? Do you think that the rivalries of Alabama-Tennessee, Florida-Florida State, Michigan-Ohio State, Notre Dame-USC, and Oklahoma-Nebraska are so inconsequential that they need to be devalued by making them a mere prelude to a postseason tournament? Judging from the TV ratings and ticket sales, the answer is no.

For the moment, let's put aside all the usual arguments against a college playoff. Yes, there are too many schools competing for too few playoff spots in too few weeks, especially with the trend towards conference title games making the season even longer. Yes, asking college students to take extra time to practice for more games dur-

By ALLEN BARRA



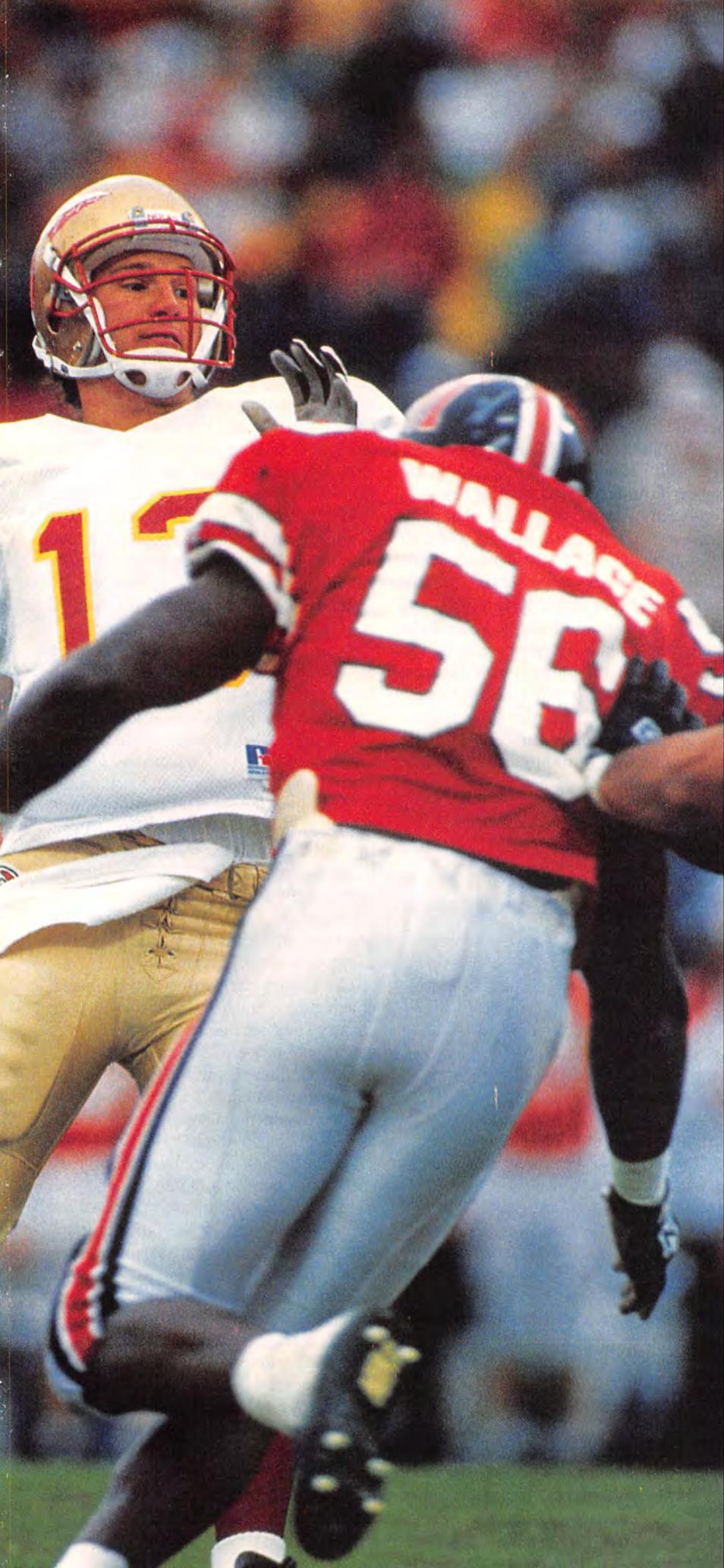
ACC PREVIEW

The ACC welcomed **Florida State** with open arms in 1992, and the Seminoles have repaid that hospitality by winning every conference game since. Their string could end this season, but don't be surprised if it doesn't. Coach Bobby Bowden has a national championship in his back pocket and a loaded roster coming back, despite losses at key positions: Charlie Ward, Tamarick Vanover, and William Floyd are gone, but the Seminoles return their offensive line nearly intact, along with leading receiver Kez McCorvey (74 catches, 966 yards), and promising runner Warrick Dunn (7.5 yards per carry). Their defense returns more than it lost, also.

North Carolina's situation is a mirror opposite of FSU's. Major losses on the offensive line will demand therapeutic measures from Johnson and Johnson—running backs Curtis and Leon, who tallied more than 1,000 yards apiece last season. Quarterback Jason Stanicek, perhaps the second-best signalcaller in the conference last year, also returns. The linebacking corps will anchor a defense that saw losses both on the line and in the secondary. In order to challenge for the conference title, **Clemson** will need to settle on a passer and rally around him, and

Virginia will have to put together two good halves of a season.—*Barry Wilner*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH: (1) Florida State. (2) North Carolina. (3) Clemson. (4) Virginia. (5) Georgia Tech. (6) North Carolina State. (7) Maryland. (8) Duke. (9) Wake Forest.



ing exams and holidays is unfair. Yes, play-offs would concentrate exposure and hence recruiting power on a few schools while the current bowl system spreads the wealth among many. For the moment, forget these arguments and concentrate on this point: Postseason playoffs would cheapen the regular season.

Simply put, a playoff system doesn't change the primary criticism of the current system—namely, that it's a popularity contest. No matter what kind of postseason plan you espouse, somebody is going to have to vote for the teams that play in it.

And who would be voting? It's hard to believe that it wouldn't be the same coaches and writers who vote now, and we all know what they pay most attention to: won-lost record. Given the chance, voters will take an unbeaten team that scheduled 11 home games against Tulane over a good 9-2 team with back-to-back one-point road losses to Miami and Florida State. That's the dirty secret of college football—well, one of them, anyway.

So what do you think is going to happen if you install a playoff system? As things stand now, there's little incentive to schedule tough games. If you play a mostly creampuff schedule, you can bring more recognition to your program, make some money by getting on TV, and—with a timely upset—swing a bowl invitation. But if there aren't any bowls, and if the big bucks are to be made by securing one of the 16 playoff spots, and if the way you secure a playoff spot is with a gaudy won-lost record—well, then why would you *ever* schedule a tough game you didn't have to?

Given college football's limited number of games, and thus limited options for deciding who's No. 1, there's nothing wrong with determining the champion with a voting contest. The important thing is that sensible criteria be applied to the voting: Margin of victory and strength of schedule should be given more weight than won-lost record, and a team's performance over the course of the entire season should be considered. In other words, if early wins and losses aren't going to count, let's not vote until the sixth game of the season.

These kinds of things are taken into consideration by such power ratings as the *New York Times* computer, Jeff Sagarin at *USA Today*, and our own "Mad Max" ("Means of Advancing Experimental Methods of Advanced Data"—"Max Mad," actually.) What Max does is factor in a "curve" for each team based on the last

The strong arm of Kanell will help the Seminoles squash any uprisings.

three seasons' performances and ask these questions: How many players did the team lose? Has its recruiting over the last few seasons plugged its holes? Is this year's schedule exceptionally tough or weak?

After digesting all of that, Max spewed out the following projected top 25 for INSIDE SPORTS:

- 1. FLORIDA STATE**
- 2. FLORIDA**
- 3. NEBRASKA**
- 4. NOTRE DAME**
- 5. MICHIGAN**
- 6. COLORADO**
- 7. ALABAMA**
- 8. PENN STATE**
- 9. TEXAS A&M**
- 10. TENNESSEE**
- 11. MIAMI**
- 12. UCLA**
- 13. ARIZONA**
- 14. WISCONSIN**
- 15. OKLAHOMA**
- 16. OHIO STATE**
- 17. AUBURN**
- 18. NORTH CAROLINA**
- 19. USC**
- 20. TEXAS**
- 21. VIRGINIA TECH**
- 22. STANFORD**
- 23. LOUISVILLE**
- 24. CLEMSON**
- 25. CALIFORNIA**

It may have occurred to you to ask whether, in an era when players leave for

the pros almost before they've learned their way around campus, the so-called experts really do have a bead on what's going to happen from one year to the next. After all, how can anyone predict how a team is going to perform when it changes names faster than Madonna switches lovers?

Good question. However, football teams tend to function at similar rates of effectiveness over long periods of time, and for a very simple reason: Players are recruited, trained, and motivated by a hierarchy that maintains its authority over an extended period of time. In fact, at a time when programs are turning over star players at a faster rate than ever, the top 10 may be becoming more solidified than ever.

Let's take a look at Mad Max's top four teams. If Florida State ends up playing Nebraska in a bowl game after this season—and there's a very good chance of that—it's unlikely these schools would all finish in any kind of 1-2-3-4 sequence in the major polls because Florida and Notre Dame would have played Florida State, and Florida State would have played all the other three. Max isn't saying this is how they'll finish in the year-end ratings, though he thinks it will be close to this; he's saying that these four probably are going to be the four top teams in the nation, regardless of any other school's won-lost record.

It may seem like a long shot to pick a team in the No. 1 spot that has to play Notre Dame and Florida, and has to do it without All-America quarterback Charlie

Ward, arguably the best player in the nation last year. However, FSU gets the Irish in Orlando this year, and when Ward was out of the lineup last year the Seminoles didn't miss a beat: Sophomore Danny Kanell stepped in and completed 28 passes for 341 yards and five touchdowns against Maryland. Beyond that, Bobby Bowden returns six of his top seven offensive linemen, including center Clay Shriver, an all-conference sophomore last season. What tailback couldn't get four or five yards a crack behind that wall?

It also may be a long shot to pick a team that's currently under a cloud of allegations regarding payments and gifts to players. Before passing on this to the matter at hand, we'd like to point out that NCAA reform is a subject that has always taken priority with us—INSIDE SPORTS' regular readers know this—but that the current allegations against Florida State are a matter of NCAA housekeeping and not our concern in this particular space. Here, our job is to focus on what happened on the field last year and what's likely to happen on it this year, and on the field the Seminoles are unlikely to be affected. How it might hurt recruiting in the future is an interesting question, but for now it's academic.

If you're looking for a new name to crack the top three this season, consider Florida, which finished no lower than fourth in the major polls last year. The Gators showed how good they were at the end of last season with back-to-back wins over Alabama in the Southeastern Conference championship game and against West Virginia in the Sugar Bowl. The latter thrashing suggests the program is ready to establish residency at the top of the polls.

The Gators have three major pluses: coach Steve Spurrier, who may be the country's best handler of quarterbacks; two sensational passers in senior Terry Dean and sophomore Danny Wuerffel; and a freshman class that's been ranked among the top five in the country. The schedule also could help; beyond Florida State there may not be any major humps. FSU, of course, is a heck of a hump, but since the Gators probably would have to get past the Seminoles one way or the other to move into the top spot anyway, November is just as good as January.

Notre Dame seems to have a great deal to replace, but when don't the Irish? Last season a tough schedule and the loss of Rick Mirer, Reggie Brooks, and Jerome Bettis caused a lot of us preseason prognosticators to vastly underrate Notre Dame's chances. However, we failed to take two things into consideration: (1) how fast the Irish recruiting machine replaces its parts, and (2) how fast Lou Holtz fits the

BIG EAST PREVIEW

Miami has two things going for it this season: numbers and embarrassment. The Hurricanes, who return nine offensive starters, probably still are blushing from being knocked off their throne by West Virginia and then losing 29-0 to Arizona in the Fiesta Bowl. Still, the Hurricanes return some important elements from the defense that led the Big East in every major category last year. On the other side of the ball, a year of experience for quarterbacks Frank Costa and Ryan Collins should ensure that the offense holds up its end of the bargain—unlike last season.

For its part, **West Virginia** loses 27 seniors including quarterback Jake Kelchner, and should drop to the middle of the pack. That leaves **Virginia Tech** as the new up-and-comer to challenge Miami. Only two years ago coach Frank Beamer was reshuffling his staff and fending off his critics after a 2-8-1 season. Now the Hokies, led by Heisman-caliber quarterback Maurice DeShazo, have momentum from a 9-3 season and confidence from a 45-20 thrashing of Indiana in the Independence Bowl. **Boston College**, with its third coach in four years, and **Syracuse** will scramble for bowl spots.—Thomas O'Toole

DeShazo: Unsung, but not untalented.



GENE SWEENEY/ALLSPORT

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:
(1) Miami. (2) Virginia Tech.
(3) Boston College. (4) Syracuse.
(5) West Virginia. (6) Rutgers.
(7) Pittsburgh. (8) Temple.

BIG EIGHT PREVIEW

Last season Colorado, Nebraska, and Oklahoma realized they couldn't expect to blow out the rest of the conference. Look for more of the same in 1994, as 13 of the top 15 rushers and nine of the top 10 quarterbacks return. But until Kansas State proves it's capable of consistently posting numbers like its 9-2-1 record in '93, and until Kansas can win enough close ones to assure a winning season, the big three will remain intact. Nebraska or Colorado as champ? It's a tough call.

For the second straight year, **Nebraska** coach Tom Osborne saw his leading rusher turn pro early, but plenty of talent is still in Lincoln. The likely starter at I-back will be Lawrence Phillips, a sophomore who gained 508 yards last year. The offensive line should be as solid as ever.

If **Colorado** stays healthy at running back, it probably will be a scoring machine—and a top-10 team. For starters, the Buffaloes have one of the best quarterbacks in the nation in Kordell

Stewart, who threw for a school-record 2,299 yards last year.

Wideout Michael Westbrook and tight end Christian Fauria are all-conference-caliber receivers.

Oklahoma's hopes rest on the Sooners' ability to groom a replacement for quarterback Cale Gundy. Linebacker Mario Freeman forms the backbone of a rock-ribbed defense.—*Jim Thomas*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

- (1) **Nebraska.** (2) **Colorado.**
- (3) **Oklahoma.** (4) **Kansas State.** (5) **Kansas.** (6) **Missouri.**
- (7) **Iowa State.** (8) **Oklahoma State.**

truth hurts—who do you like to win the big game, Notre Dame or Nebraska? Put it this way: Who do you like to win the big game, just about anybody or Nebraska?

pieces together. For a while there Holtz seemed to be losing it—horrified Irish fans watched their boys suffer some of the most monumental collapses in school history. But all the controversy surrounding the book "Under the Tarnished Dome" seemed to pull the team together, and there's no reason to believe the players who came to prominence last year will fade this year.

The Irish begin the '94 season with 6'4" quarterback Ron Powlus, one of the most highly regarded prospects in the country, ready to step in and throw to the explosive Derrick Mayes, who averaged more than 20 yards a catch. The running game has tailback Lee Becton, a terrific big-game runner, behind a line that has two top players returning and a new class of recruits experts rank as one of the best in the country. Notre Dame has a legitimate All-America candidate at every defensive position, with all-everything defensive back Bobby (Nobody Beats Me One-on-One) Taylor as the standout.

Those three schools seem to be a cut above the others.

Yes, we know what you're going to say: Mad Max's No. 3 team isn't Notre Dame, but Nebraska. The problem is—and we don't mean to be insensitive, but sometimes the

To be fair, the way the Cornhuskers played against Florida State in the Orange Bowl suggests they may be ready to join the 20th century as far as offensive sophistication is concerned. In that game Tommie Frazier outgutted and outplayed Ward, and there's no reason Frazier can't use the same kind of play-fakes and bootleg passes on opponents this season. If so, Nebraska—with 13 returning starters, including three All-Big Eighters—just may get another title shot.

Michigan, Colorado, Alabama, Penn State, Texas A&M, and Tennessee figure to round out the top 10. Of the group, Michigan and Colorado have the furthest to go, but both have more key starters returning than Mad Max's remaining top-10 candidates. Michigan should get outstanding help from its freshmen; a number of rating services place the Wolverines' 1994 recruiting class among the top five in the country. The Wolverines' schedule looks a little tougher than usual this year, largely because the Big Ten (i.e., Wisconsin and Ohio State) is a little tougher. In addition, Michigan must play Boston College, Notre Dame, and Colorado. To counter this, the running game should be devastating; four of the five starting offensive linemen return, along with the entire starting backfield.

Colorado has only 36 lettermen returning, which would indicate a shortage of

BIG TEN PREVIEW

A few times each decade, a team or two emerges briefly to disrupt business-as-usual in the Big Ten. **Wisconsin** did it the right way last season—the Badgers actually won the Rose Bowl instead of playing it like an anticlimax, the way most surprise Big Ten champs do. This season coach Barry Alvarez returns 17 starters, including an offensive line that forged a streak of 12 straight games of more than 170 yards rushing. It will protect junior quarterback Darrell Bevell, who already owns 10 school records. The Badgers defense is what needs shoring up: It was fifth overall in the Big Ten last season and eighth against the pass.

Michigan also returns a potent offense, including running back Tyrone Wheatley—a Heisman Trophy candidate—quarterback Todd Collins, the rest of the offensive backfield, and four offensive linemen.

Penn State's no slouch on offense either, returning most of its skill-position players. On defense, the youth of the front line will be offset by experience at other positions, made possible by the platoon system the Nittany Lions used last season.

Ohio State and **Illinois** return many standout players and give the Big Ten five legitimate championship-caliber teams.—*David Campbell*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

- (1) **Michigan.** (2) **Penn State.**
- (3) **Wisconsin.** (4) **Ohio State.**
- (5) **Illinois.** (6) **Indiana.** (7) **Iowa.**
- (8) **Michigan State.** (9) **Minnesota.** (10) **Northwestern.**
- (11) **Purdue.**



JOE PATRONE/TEALSPORT



TOM DIFPAC

INDEPENDENTS PREVIEW

You're tired—tired of Lou Holtz whining, tired of NBC hyping **Notre Dame**, tired of seeing the Irish atop the polls. Well, there's just no rest for the weary. Sure, the Irish must replace 12 starters and are relatively inexperienced in the secondary, on the offensive line, and at quarterback. But they always seem to find the right replacement parts. The offensive attack boasts Lee Becton, another in the long line of superb Notre Dame ball carriers, who is coming off a 1,044-yard year. The quarterback job has been conceded to Ron Powlus, who was sidelined last year with a broken collarbone. He's a better pure passer than last year's replacement, the now-departed Kevin McDougal, but he's still never played a college game.

Becton: The latest great Irish back.



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

experience. But nine of those lettermen are offensive starters, including underrated senior quarterback Kordell Stewart. Stewart somehow managed to pass for 2,300 yards (with a healthy 7.6 yards-per-pass average), run for 524 yards (5.2 average), and account for 17 touchdowns without getting his name in the national press. If he can beat Oklahoma at Boulder and Nebraska at Lincoln, he'll be a viable Heisman candidate, and the Buffaloes will be back in the national championship picture.

The Crimson Tide of Alabama may be the biggest surprise of the group. New offensive coordinator Homer Smith should spark a big improvement and a change in philosophy: This year the Crimson Tide won't sit back and wait for the defense to win a game. Not that the defense can't do it; with 27 lettermen returning—including secondary stalwarts Tommy Johnson, Sam Shade, and Willie Gaston—Bama should hold opponents to less than two touchdowns per game. Wideout Curtis Brown and flanker Toderick Malone may be as fast, or faster, than the departed David Palmer. A sensational recruiting season and a schedule that's not overly demanding—the Tide get Auburn in Birmingham this year and catch Tennessee post-Heath Shuler—mean there's an excellent chance Alabama could be unbeaten going into the SEC title game, probably against Florida.

Penn State looked strong early last season before starting to fade, usually a sign of a team that lacks depth. The Nittany

As for the rest of the independents, there's not much to note. **Louisville** was terrific at 9-3 last year but loses 14 starters and faces Texas, Texas A&M, and Boston College this year. **Army**, a fortunate 6-5 last season, should be respectable, but **Cincinnati** lost 14 starters off an 8-3 squad and must play Indiana, Syracuse, and Wisconsin.—*Barry Wilner*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

- (1) **Notre Dame.** (2) **Louisville.**
- (3) **Army.** (4) **Cincinnati.** (5) **East Carolina.** (6) **Memphis State.** (7) **Navy.**
- (8) **Southern Mississippi.** (9) **Tulane.**
- (10) **Tulsa.**

Lions improved their recruiting over the previous season, which might be the result of Big Ten exposure. Unfortunately, Big Ten exposure also means being exposed to Michigan and Ohio State in successive

games (October 15 and 29, with a week of rest in between), so if they stumble there the Lions virtually must go unbeaten the rest of the way to maintain a top-10 rating—and that could be difficult to do with a defense that must replace eight starters.

The Texas A&M Aggies have maintained a remarkably high level of play over the past few seasons, and with 44 returning lettermen this year they're not likely to fade much from last year's top-10 rankings. However, the Aggies invariably come down the stretch either unbeaten or with one loss and start complaining about "lack of respect." Fellas, win one of those Cotton Bowls against Notre Dame if you want to vault into the upper tier.

As for Tennessee, the Volunteers' recruiting class is the consensus pick as the best crop in the country—this to go along with 48 returning lettermen. The problem as far as a national title is concerned is that a team without Shuler looks to lose perhaps two games over a schedule that includes UCLA, Florida, and Alabama.

Those would seem to be the legitimate top-10 candidates. If there's one curious aspect to that list, it's that Miami isn't on it. The Hurricanes have suffered two horrendous bowl defeats in a row, and it's taken a definite edge off of

PAC-10 PREVIEW

The proliferation of outstanding quarterbacks in the Pac-10 continues. All-conference selection Rob Johnson of **USC** returns, as does **Stanford's** Steve Stenstrom, who broke single-season Pac-10 passing and total offense records set by John Elway and Timm Rosenbach. Thanks in part to veteran signal callers, five conference teams could be rated in anybody's top 25.

Good receivers make quarterbacks look good, which bodes well for **UCLA**. Wide receiver J.J. Stokes had Heisman Trophy credentials last season: 82 receptions for 1,181 yards and 17 touchdowns, all school records. He'll take tosses from Wayne Cook, the Bruins' first returning starter at quarterback since Troy Aikman. Cook's numbers last season were stellar: 55.6% completion rate, 2,067 yards, 18 touchdowns, and four interceptions.

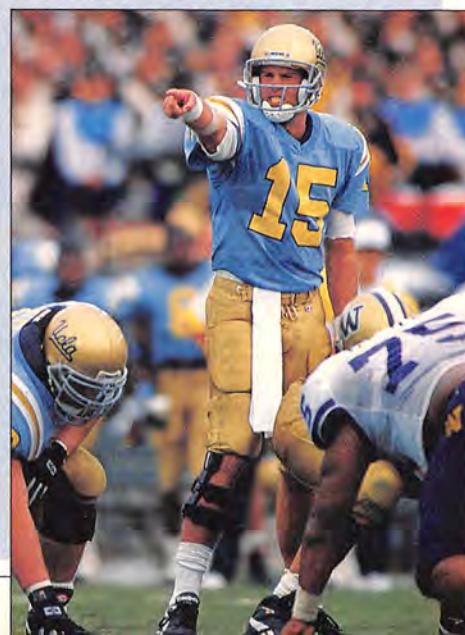
USC's Johnson also is being touted as a Heisman Trophy candidate, and why not? He completed nearly 69% of his passes last year and set a multitude of school records, including passing yardage (3,630) and touchdown passes (29). Best of all, he threw just six interceptions. How he deals with life after All-America wide receiver Johnnie Morton will be the key.

Now, if you believe defense makes the difference, look for **Arizona** to play in Pasadena on New Year's Day. The Wildcats lost nose guard Rob Waldrop, last season's national defensive player of the year, but this season's crew—with linebacker Sean Harris, end Tedy Bruschi, safety Tony Bouie, tackle Jim Hoffman, and safety Brandon Sanders—is just as capable.—*Bob Cohn*

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

- (1) **UCLA.** (2) **Arizona.** (3) **USC.**
- (4) **Stanford.** (5) **Washington.**
- (6) **California.** (7) **Arizona State.**
- (8) **Oregon.** (9) **Washington State.**
- (10) **Oregon State.**

Cook has the recipe for success.



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WF-21

SEC PREVIEW

their bully status. They apparently recruited very well over the winter, but you have to wonder if coach Dennis Erickson's increasingly conservative offensive philosophy really is going to accomplish for the Hurricanes of the '90s what the innovations of Howard Schnellenberger and Jimmy Johnson did for the teams of the '80s. Miami almost single-handedly brought the aggressive pro-type offense to college football, but under Erickson the Canes are starting to look ordinary.

Miami's Fiesta Bowl conqueror, Arizona, might be ready for the big time. With seven starters back on offense, including quarterback Dan White, the Wildcats must be counted among the Rose Bowl favorites. The October 22 match with UCLA in Tucson may well settle that issue—for UCLA, too. The Bruins probably were better than last year's 8-4 record, which includes the Rose Bowl loss to Wisconsin, but this year must deal with the loss of 11 of 22 starters. Fortunately for the Bruins, three of those returning are quarterback Wayne Cook, Heisman-caliber wideout J.J. Stokes, and linebacker Donnie Edwards, an All-America candidate.

Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Ohio State look to be closely grouped near the bottom of the top 15. Both the Badgers and the Buckeyes have a legitimate Heisman candidate—Wisconsin's Brent Moss, who averaged 136 yards rushing per game, and OSU's Joey Galloway,

By the time November turns to December, expect to see familiar names at the top of the Southeastern Conference's Eastern and Western division standings—but don't expect to see them in Birmingham, Ala. After two years at Legion Field, the SEC championship game has been moved to Atlanta. The division winners can expect to find ideal playing conditions—and a more neutral environment—under the roof of the Georgia Dome.

Who will be there when East meets West to determine the league's Sugar Bowl representative? If **Auburn** weren't still under NCAA sanctions, it might be tempting to pencil in the Tigers for the title game from the West. And if 1993 Heisman Trophy runner-up Heath Shuler hadn't turned pro, it would be easy to project **Tennessee** winning the East.

Given these circumstances, it wouldn't be terribly surprising to see **Alabama-Florida**, Round 3. The Gators ended last season with two pretty good quarterbacks, so 1994 may turn out to be a repeat of the Terry Dean vs. Danny Wuerffel dilemma. It's a problem most teams would like to have. The Crimson Tide must plug four holes on the offensive line before they can expect to win their third straight division crown, but they'll be helped by a tough secondary led by Sam Shade.—Mike Strange

Shade keeps enemy receivers in the dark.



JIM GUND/ALLSPORT

who caught 47 balls last year and may be the best receiver in school history—but both teams will have to develop at least two or three outstanding players to be a con-

tender in the Big Ten and the top 10. Oklahoma looks to be solid if not spectacular; the "Lightning and Thunder" running back combo of James Allen and Jerald Moore is back, along with an outstanding line that returns all regulars, but All-Big Eight quarterback Cale Gundy's absence may mean more than the return of eight other offensive regulars. The 5'10" Mario Freeman, perhaps the shortest All-America linebacker candidate this decade, anchors a superb defense that returns eight starters.

It's hard not to put Auburn—the only unbeaten school last year—in the top 15. But then, it's hard to know where to place the Tigers at all. This year they return 10 starters on defense but must replace their quarterback, and neither of the top recruiting guides places their freshman class in the top 25. In addition, Auburn's three toughest games—Ole Miss, Florida, and Alabama—are, for a change, on the road.

From there, the rest of the top 25 looks fairly interchangeable—except to note that USC has put together its best recruiting campaign in years. And that Virginia Tech quarterback Maurice DeShazo just might be the best unknown Heisman candidate in the country. And that Bill Walsh, who is probably the best football coach in the country, could make all these predictions look silly if his highly rated freshman class of '92 clicks in. ■

SWC PREVIEW

This 80-year-old conference might be the oldest lame duck around. Its four perennial tough guys—Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor, and Texas Tech—will take their act to the Big Eight Conference in two years. The other four SWC schools—SMU, Texas Christian, Rice, and Houston—are trying to realign with another set of NCAA Division I-A partners. But that's for guys in nice suits to worry about. "The players," says Southern Methodist coach Tom Rossley, "seem to have blinders. They just want to get ready for our opener."

Texas A&M may be the SWC's best team—quarterback Corey Pullig has started in the last two

Cotton Bowls—but the Aggies are ineligible for bowl play and the conference championship. So look for coach John Mackovic to lead **Texas** to his first SWC title. The Longhorns aren't a sure bet, though. They could have the league's best starters, but the team has little depth. Sophomore quarterback Shea Morenz displayed promise as a redshirt freshman last season, but he suffered from inexperience.

Behind the Longhorns will be **Baylor**, which is trying to rebound from its first season in three years without a bowl bid, and **Texas Tech**, which is rebuilding its offense to go with a veteran defense.—David McNabb

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH:

- (1) **Texas A&M.** (2) **Texas.** (3) **Baylor.**
- (4) **Texas Tech.** (5) **Southern Methodist.**
- (6) **Texas Christian.** (7) **Rice.**
- (8) **Houston.**



JOE PATRONE/ALLSPORT

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How soon can I expect results from using ROGAINE?

Studies show that the response time to ROGAINE may differ greatly from one person to another. Some people using ROGAINE may see results faster than others; others may respond with a slower rate of hair regrowth. You should not expect visible regrowth in less than 4 months.

How long do I need to use ROGAINE?

ROGAINE is a hair-loss treatment, not a cure. If you have new hair growth, you will need to continue using ROGAINE to keep or increase hair regrowth. If you do not begin to show new hair growth with ROGAINE after a reasonable period of time (at least 4 months), your doctor may advise you to discontinue using ROGAINE.

What happens if I stop using ROGAINE? Will I keep the new hair?

Probably not. People have reported that new hair growth was shed after they stopped using ROGAINE.

How much ROGAINE should I use?

You should apply a 1-mL dose of ROGAINE twice a day to your clean dry scalp, once in the morning and once at night before bedtime. Wash your hands after use if your fingers are used to apply ROGAINE. ROGAINE must remain on the scalp for at least 4 hours to ensure penetration into the scalp. Do not wash your hair for at least 4 hours after applying it. If you wash your hair before applying ROGAINE, be sure your scalp and hair are dry when you apply it. Please refer to the Instructions for Use in the package.

What if I miss a dose or forget to use ROGAINE?

Do not try to make up for missed applications of ROGAINE. You should restart your twice-daily doses and return to your usual schedule.

What are the most common side effects reported in clinical studies with ROGAINE?

Itching and other skin irritations of the treated scalp area were the most common side effects directly linked to ROGAINE in clinical studies. About 7 of every 100 people who used ROGAINE (7%) had these complaints.

Other side effects, including light-headedness, dizziness, and headaches, were reported both by people using ROGAINE and by those using the placebo solution with no minoxidil. You should ask your doctor to discuss side effects of ROGAINE with you.

People who are extra sensitive or allergic to minoxidil, propylene glycol, or ethanol should not use ROGAINE.

ROGAINE Topical Solution contains alcohol, which could cause burning or irritation of the eyes or sensitive skin areas. If ROGAINE accidentally gets into these areas, rinse the area with large amounts of cool tap water. Contact your doctor if the irritation does not go away.

What are some of the side effects people have reported?

ROGAINE was used by 3,857 patients (347 females) in placebo-controlled clinical trials. Except for dermatologic events (involving the skin), no individual reaction or reactions grouped by body systems appeared to be more common in the minoxidil-treated patients than in placebo-treated patients.

Dermatologic: irritant or allergic contact dermatitis—7.36%; **Respiratory:** bronchitis, upper respiratory infection, sinusitis—7.16%; **Gastrointestinal:** diarrhea, nausea, vomiting—4.33%; **Neurologic:** headache, dizziness, faintness, light-headedness—3.42%; **Musculoskeletal:** fractures, back pain, tendinitis, aches and pains—2.59%; **Cardiovascular:** edema, chest pain, blood pressure increases/decreases, palpitations, pulse rate increases/decreases—1.53%; **Allergic:** nonspecific allergic reactions, hives, allergic rhinitis, facial swelling, and sensitivity—1.27%; **Metabolic-Nutritional:** edema, weight gain—1.24%; **Special Senses:** conjunctivitis, ear infections, vertigo—1.17%; **Genital Tract:** prostatitis, epididymitis, vaginitis, vulvitis, vaginal discharge/itching—0.91%; **Urinary Tract:** urinary tract infections, renal calculi, urethritis—0.93%; **Endocrine:** menstrual changes, breast swelling—0.47%; **Psychiatric:** anxiety, depression, fatigue—0.36%; **Hematologic:** lymphadenopathy, thrombocytopenia, anemia—0.31%.

ROGAINE use has been monitored for up to 5 years, and there has been no change in incidence or severity of reported adverse reactions. Additional adverse events have been reported since marketing ROGAINE and include eczema; hypertrichosis (excessive hair growth); local erythema (redness); pruritis (itching); dry skin/scalp flaking; sexual dysfunction; visual disturbances, including decreased visual acuity (clarity); increase in hair loss; and alopecia (hair loss).

What are the possible side effects that could affect the heart and circulation when using ROGAINE?

Serious side effects have not been linked to ROGAINE in clinical studies. However, it is possible that they could occur if more than the recommended dose of ROGAINE were applied, because the active ingredient in ROGAINE is the same as that in minoxidil tablets. These effects appear to be dose related; that is, more effects are seen with higher doses.

Because very small amounts of minoxidil reach the blood when the recommended dose of ROGAINE is applied to the scalp, you should know about certain effects that may occur when the tablet form of minoxidil is used to treat high blood pressure. Minoxidil tablets lower blood pressure by relaxing the arteries, an effect called vasodilation. Vasodilation leads to fluid retention and faster heart rate. The following effects have occurred in some patients taking minoxidil tablets for high blood pressure:

Increased heart rate: Some patients have reported that their resting heart rate increased by more than 20 beats per minute.

Salt and water retention: weight gain of more than 5 pounds in a short period of time or swelling of the face, hands, ankles, or stomach area.

Problems breathing: especially when lying down; a result of a buildup of body fluids or fluid around the heart.

Worsening or new attack of angina pectoris: brief, sudden chest pain.

When you apply ROGAINE to normal skin, very little minoxidil is absorbed. You probably will not have the possible effects caused by minoxidil tablets when you use ROGAINE. If, however, you experience any of the possible side effects listed above, stop using ROGAINE and consult your doctor. Any such effects would be most likely if ROGAINE was used on damaged or inflamed skin or in greater than recommended amounts.

In animal studies, minoxidil, in much larger amounts than would be absorbed from topical use (on skin) in people, has caused important heart-structure damage. This kind of damage has not been seen in humans given minoxidil tablets for high blood pressure at effective doses.

What factors may increase the risk of serious side effects with ROGAINE?

People with a known or suspected heart condition or a tendency for heart failure would be at particular risk if increased heart rate or fluid retention were to occur. People with these kinds of heart problems should discuss the possible risks of treatment with their doctor if they choose to use ROGAINE.

ROGAINE should be used only on the balding scalp. Using ROGAINE on other parts of the body may increase minoxidil absorption, which may increase the chances of having side effects. You should not use ROGAINE if your scalp is irritated or sunburned, and you should not use it if you are using other skin treatments on your scalp.

Can people with high blood pressure use ROGAINE?

Most people with high blood pressure, including those taking high blood pressure medicine, can use ROGAINE but should be monitored closely by their doctor. Patients taking a blood pressure medicine called guanethidine should not use ROGAINE.

Should any precautions be followed?

People who use ROGAINE should see their doctor 1 month after starting ROGAINE and at least every 6 months thereafter. Stop using ROGAINE if any of the following occur: salt and water retention, problems breathing, faster heart rate, or chest pain.

Do not use ROGAINE if you are using other drugs applied to the scalp such as corticosteroids, retinoids, petrolatum, or agents that might increase absorption through the skin. ROGAINE is for use on the scalp only. Each 1 mL of solution contains 20 mg minoxidil, and accidental ingestion could cause unwanted effects.

Are there special precautions for women?

Pregnant women and nursing mothers should not use ROGAINE. Also, its effects on women during labor and delivery are not known. Efficacy in postmenopausal women has not been studied. Studies show the use of ROGAINE will not affect menstrual cycle length, amount of flow, or duration of the menstrual period. Discontinue using ROGAINE and consult your doctor as soon as possible if your menstrual period does not occur at the expected time.

Can ROGAINE be used by children?

No, the safety and effectiveness of ROGAINE has not been tested in people under age 18.

Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without a prescription. You must see a doctor to receive a prescription.



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DON NELSON HAS BEEN WAITING for this opportunity for a long time. Nelson was in the vanguard of NBA executives importing European players—the Golden State Warriors currently boast Lithuania's Sarunas Marciulionis on their roster—and he campaigned for the head coaching job of the historic original Dream Team in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. When he lost that job to Chuck Daly, he didn't give up.

Persistence pays. Nellie was named coach of Dream Team II, which will compete in the 12th World Championship of Basketball. The tournament, which runs August 4-14, brings together teams from 16 nations seeking to claim global basketball supremacy.

When Nelson was named to the post, he immediately began preparations—scouting some of the competition at the 1993 European championships, traveling to

Puerto Rico last summer for the Basketball Tournament of the Americas, and attending the African qualifying tournament for the World Championships in Nairobi, Kenya. With all that sophisticated preparation complete, Nellie now knows how best to guide his team through the rough international waters.

"It's take-no-prisoners," he says. "We're going to win the gold. We have the best team. It really doesn't matter what the competition does—as long as we work and do what we have to, it won't be a close deal."

The casual fan might assume the U.S. retired the planetary basketball trophy with its phenomenal play in the '92 Summer Games. U.S. basketball pros competed in the Olympics for the first time in those Games, and they provided an unforgettable two weeks—magic filled the air, birds sang, mailmen delivered, and by the final buzzer everyone in the world was calling the Americans "Sir," and not only because of Charles Barkley. The U.S. team was transcendent. Says NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik: "The sight of the greatest players in the world on one team captivated the world."

That team had more than just the world's best players. In Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and Larry Bird it featured three of the greatest basketball players of all time. And the supporting cast of Barkley, Patrick Ewing, Karl Malone, Chris Mullin, Scottie Pippen, David Robinson, and Clyde Drexler made it a virtual hoops Hall of Fame preview.

Obviously, Dream Team II has a lot to match. On the other hand, it certainly doesn't lack confidence.

"We're coming full force," warns the New Jersey Nets' Derrick Coleman. "We're like a bomb, ticking and ready to go off. And if we played Dream Team I, we'd beat them, too."

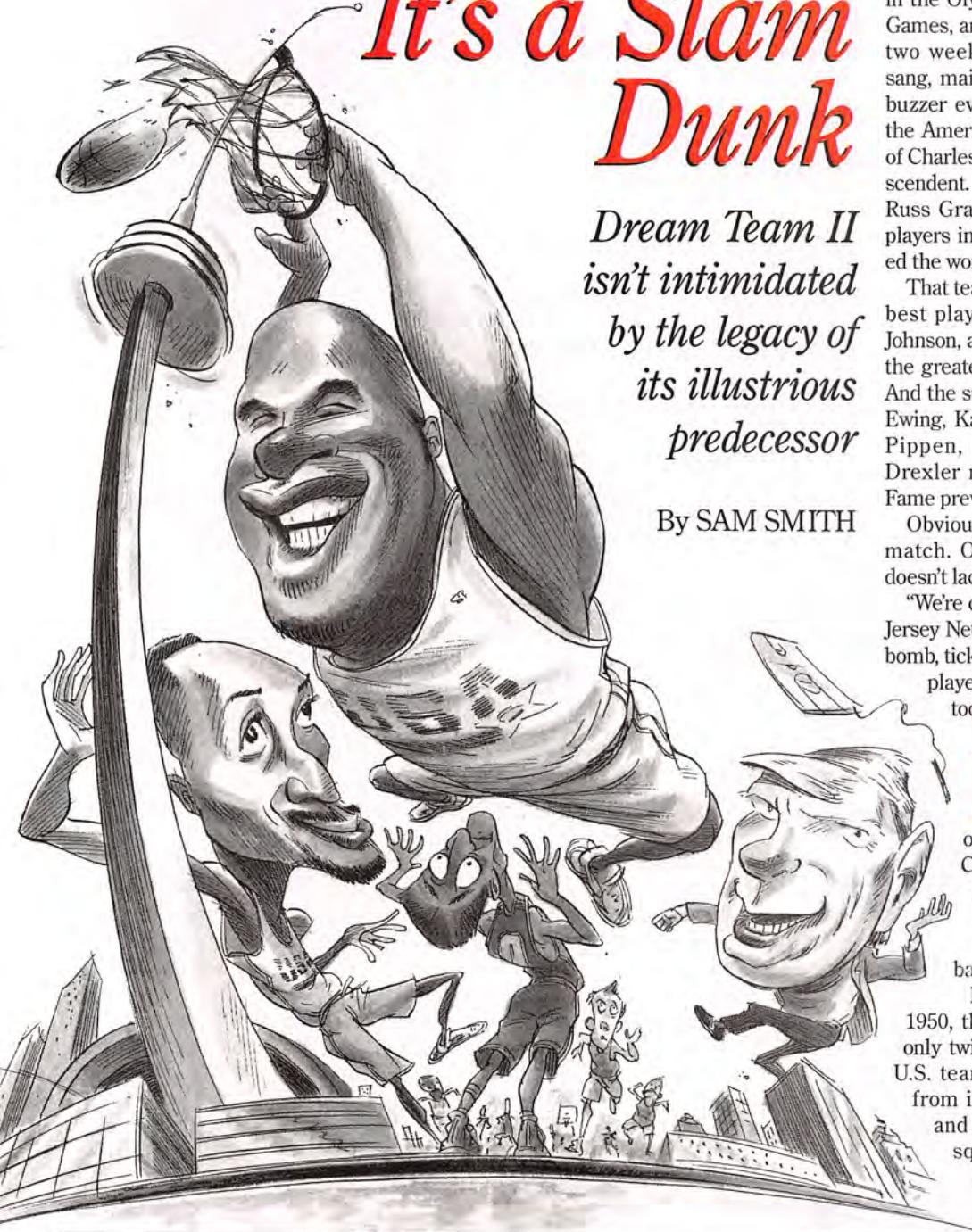
Now that would be some explosion. However, there will be some serious competition this year from Croatia and Canada. In addition, America's history in the World Championships—sometimes called the World Cup of basketball—is not proud.

In the 11 tournaments since 1950, the U.S. has won the gold medal only twice. (Admittedly, several of those U.S. teams were made up of amateurs from industrial leagues, the military, and Athletes in Action.) The 1986 squad in Madrid—stocked with current NBA stars Robinson, Sean Elliott, Charles Smith,

A Gold Medal? *It's a Slam Dunk*

*Dream Team II
isn't intimidated
by the legacy of
its illustrious
predecessor*

By SAM SMITH

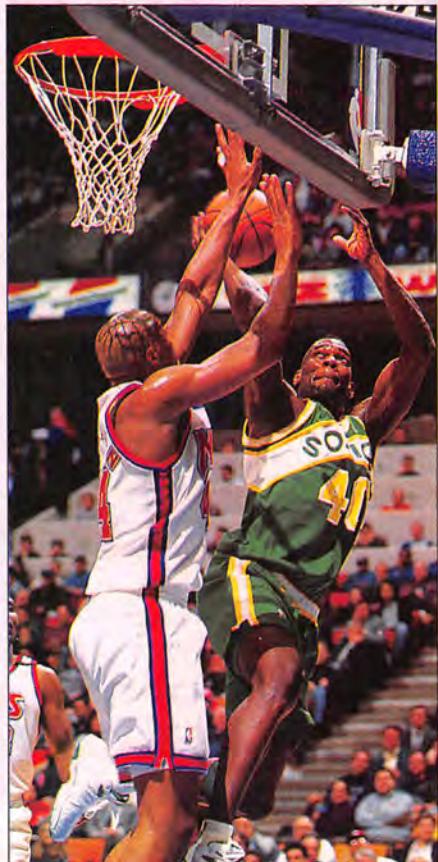


Derrick McKey, Rony Seikaly, and Kenny Smith—won the second gold medal, but even as recently as 1990, the likes of Kenny Anderson, Christian Laettner, Alonzo Mourning, Billy Owens, and Todd Day fell short. That year the U.S. captured a bronze medal with an overtime win over Puerto Rico, and actually trailed in the last two minutes in five of its eight games.

"Quite frankly," says Nelson, "we were lucky to win the bronze in the 1990 World Championships in Buenos Aires. We were overmatched physically by older players."

Watching that tournament convinced Nelson that the U.S. never would win another world title matching inexperienced collegiate all-star squads against veteran international teams that had toured together and knew one another well from years of competition. Further proof had come in 1988, when the U.S. failed to win a gold medal in the Olympics in Seoul, even though that team featured several future NBA All-Stars, including Robinson, Dan Majerle, Danny Manning, Mitch Richmond, and Hersey Hawkins.

These persistent failures on the world stage stung; after all, basketball is America's game. So the powers-that-be agreed it was time to show the world the best the U.S. had to offer—amateurism be damned—and NBA players were made eligible for the first time in 1992. Dream Team I featured 11 pros, along with one college player, Duke's Laettner. As Dream Team II center Alonzo Mourning of the Charlotte Hornets says: "Guys all over the world want to show who's the best in the world."



And even if the U.S. team is the prohibitive favorite—well, Americans have been there before and come home without the gold. "I feel we have a much better chance against Dream Team II," says Toni Kukoc, the Chicago Bulls rookie who'll play for Croatia with Dino Radja of the Boston Celtics and former Celtic Stojko Vrankovic. "We know these players now. And me and Dino have much more experience."

It was the Croatian team, led by Kukoc and the late Drazen Petrovic, that "held" Dream Team I to a 32-point victory margin. The Croatians made it to the final game, where they were crushed 117-85. However, that country isn't the only threat.

"Croatia has to be the No. 1 challenge," says NBA vice president of operations Rod Thorn, head of the USA Basketball selection committee for Dream Team II. "But the Canadian team also will be better with Bill Wennington of the Chicago Bulls and Rick Fox of the Boston Celtics. And Australia will have the Bulls' Luc Longley and Andrew Gaze, who was with the Washington Bullets. Brazil will have Oscar



Rico. It all will come down to the gold medal game on Sunday, August 14, in Toronto's SkyDome.

And if all goes as expected, to a team that may be the vanguard of the NBA. Even if their stars don't shine as brightly as those from Dream Team I, the cast of Dream Team II represents the best of worldwide basketball in the 1990s.

For instance, there are the game's top two young centers in Mourning and Shaquille O'Neal. "The first Dream Team was dominant," says Shaq. "I think we'll be just as dominant."

There's the high-flying Kemp, who may be the most exciting player in the NBA today. He'll line up alongside the player known as "the human highlight film," Dominique Wilkins. "I'm the old man," says the 34-year-old Wilkins, "but this team is as good as any. We've got guys who are going to make noise in this league for a long time."

Those guys include Coleman of the Nets, the Miami Heat's Steve Smith, Mourning and Larry Johnson of the Hornets, the Indiana Pacers' Reggie Miller, and grizzled veteran guards such as the Cleveland Cavaliers' Mark Price, Joe Dumars of the Detroit Pistons, and the Phoenix Suns' Majerle and Kevin Johnson.

"It's a different team," Thorn says, "younger, but with weapons all over the place. It's a team with some of the great young stars for the mid- and late '90s."

From a coaching standpoint, that may make this team better in some respects

than its fabled predecessor. While Dream Team I was dominant, it also was a sort of billboard for the NBA of the past decade—Johnson and Bird, for example, were past their primes. That team simply steamrolled the competition with sheer ability. This team figures to do that, too, but it can do it in many different ways.

And it may have the perfect coach in Nelson, who will be assisted by Don Chaney of the Pistons, Rick Majerus of the University of Utah, and Providence's Pete Gillen. Nelson's Warriors long have been one of the highest-scoring teams in the NBA, and the coach is renowned for the daring and innovative strategies that have lifted him into the NBA's top 10 in career coaching victories.

"This team can win any way we want to play," says Nelson, who in 31 seasons as a player, coach, and general manager has participated in more than 2,600 NBA games, more than anyone in history. "We can go fast and big, slow down, go outside, inside—you name it. I've been waiting for an opportunity to coach a team like this and do something for my country for a long time.

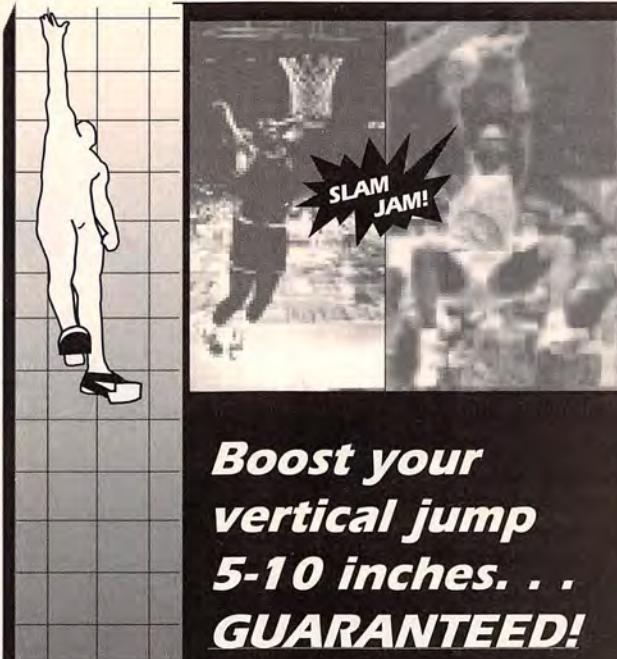
"This may be the second line of stars compared to Dream Team I, but this team is younger and, I think, equally talented. We won't have as many of the marquee names, but some [of those] were at the end of their careers—Magic and Bird, to name two. With the players we've got, we can run and also dominate inside. I love to run—and even more important than running in international basketball is a team capable of shooting threes [because of a closer three-point line]."

And Dream Team II dwarfs anything the first Dream Team had in terms of perimeter firepower. The '94 team boasts Majerle, who made the most treys in the NBA this year; Price, the two-time defending three-point shooting champion; and Miller, fourth all-time in three-pointers made.

Nelson isn't expecting any slip-ups with a group like this. "Sure, the one-game-and-done philosophy is scary," he says. "That's why I say what we're preparing for every game is our worst nightmare—a game in which everything goes wrong, where nothing will go in the basket, and they're dropping them in."

"We're preparing for a game where we play our worst, and they play their best—and we still win handily, with defense and rebounding and overall dominance. And that's what we're expecting." ■

SAM SMITH, the NBA columnist for the Chicago Tribune, is the author of the best-selling "The Jordan Rules."



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Welcome to the Regional Pastime

*Thanks to a series
of bad moves by
major league owners,
baseball isn't our
national game
any longer*

By JOHN FEINSTEIN



WHEN THE POOBAAHS OF BASEBALL ANNOUNCED THEIR plan last summer to re-make the major leagues in order to create an extra round of playoffs, purists screamed.

I didn't. Much to my surprise, I found myself in agreement with the owners. After all, baseball had held the line far longer than any other sport. It had kept the number of teams in postseason play at four while hockey and basketball ran amok with 16 apiece, and football lurched from four to eight to 10 and then to 12. With expansion bringing the number of teams to 28, I figured going to eight playoff teams couldn't be all that bad.

I was wrong.

The season wasn't two weeks old before the National League East had become nothing more than a mad dash for a possible wild-card spot. Even after the Atlanta Braves dropped four games out of five, they still were in position to clinch by the first week of August.

Oh sure, runaway races happened under the old system. And the new system is designed to keep fans of a division where a runaway is occurring from losing interest before the Fourth of July. But to tell you the truth, I'm really not sure a race between the Philadelphia Phillies and the St. Louis Cardinals to see who can eke out 85 wins is going to have America on the edge of its collective seat. And beyond that, I just can't see myself getting used to sitting around talking about the tight race in the National League Central. Come on, isn't that the Black-and-Blue Division?

There's also the little matter of the four-team divisions out west created by this six-division setup. If the San Francisco Giants are 70% as good as they were a year ago, they may clinch before the Braves do. Sure, the Los Angeles Dodgers may hang around for a while—long enough to give Tommy Lasorda some serious camera time—but how credible a threat can they really be when Kevin Gross is still a key performer at the age of 64? And the rest of the division consists of an expansion team

(Colorado) and a Triple-A team (San Diego). Come to think of it, there's a player in AA Birmingham who might help the Padres. Tall kid named Jordan.

The American League West is even worse. It's not out of the realm of possibility that the champ won't win 80 games. The Oakland Athletics still give Bob Welch the ball every fifth day. Didn't he have a memorable World Series confrontation with Babe Ruth? This is where baseball must draw the line. A sub-.500 team in the playoffs will give a sideshow quality to the entire postseason. *Well, the Toronto Blue Jays are coming off an impressive first-round victory over the Oakland A's, who finished the season 78-87 after Toronto's three-game sweep.* What will baseball come up with next—an Islanders-Rangers series?

"It would be embarrassing," says A's manager Tony La Russa, when the subject of winning a division with a losing record comes up. "But I don't think it's as bad as the wild card. I always thought the neat thing about baseball was that you had to win something to play in the postseason. Now they've taken that away."

What, then, is the answer? It's simple: expansion. Yes, expansion—and not soon, but now. And not two teams, but four.

Am I crazy? A reasonable question, given that the combined ERA in the major leagues this season probably will be about 12.00. No one can pitch anymore, and another expansion will only make the situation worse.

But how much worse, and for how long? In the short term, it may make for even more 12-11 games than we're seeing now. (And maybe that problem can be partially solved by deadening the baseball just a little bit.) In the long term, though, expansion will bring sanity back to the game.

To begin with, baseball-starved cities such as Washington, St. Petersburg, Phoenix, and Buffalo all can be accommodated, although baseball would be wise to demand that the owners in St. Pete either build a stadium of their own or figure out a way to get a retractable roof put on the Thunder—used to be Suncoast—dome. Right now, the Thunderdome would be the worst thing to hit baseball since the Kingdome.

Once that detail was taken care of, the four new teams could be admitted for an expansion fee of, oh, let's say \$200 million. The new owners would yell and scream, but they would pay it. Right there, the present owners would add \$800 million to their coffers, which would more than make up for eliminating this silly new tier of playoffs. And once the four new teams are in place, baseball could be regrouped into four divisions of eight teams each—no more wild cards, no more four-team divisions with no team that can play .500 ball for an entire season. You would have real live pennant races like the one the Braves and Giants staged last season, and making the playoffs really would mean something again.

In the long run, television would be well-served by having only quality teams in postseason play. After all, exactly what kind of ratings do you expect this fall from the Seattle-Baltimore playoff series? Even with this silly regional concept, you aren't looking at a ratings monster here.

What's more, going back to eight-team divisions with legitimate pennant races and only four teams in the playoffs would force the owners to abandon this ludicrous regional TV concept. I can almost buy what they're doing during the regular season—whether we want to admit it or not, the days when a Saturday "Game of the Week" meant something are long gone. Most of the country can see three to five games a night nowadays; the Saturday telecasts were ratings losers for years. In a utopia, one of the networks would keep the "Game of the Week" alive because of tradition and because there are several million Americans who still don't have cable, but utopia ceased to be a stop on either the baseball or TV circuit years ago.

That said, this notion of not showing some postseason games on national TV is the dumbest idea to hit baseball since the wave. Imagine for a second the NFL staging the AFC and NFC championship games at the same time and then cutting into the game you're watching to show highlights and big moments from the other one. Are you kidding me?

It's bad enough that we'll only see one of four first-round games each night, but to televise just one game a night from the LCS is insane. However, what's most insane is that the owners, who claim to be the keepers of the flame—especially when Congress starts talking about dropping the antitrust exemption—have, for all intents and purposes, decreed that baseball is no longer a national game. It's now a regional game, except during the World Series. The owners finally have transformed the sport: It is now hockey.

If Congress is serious about putting pressure on the owners, the first thing it ought to do is demand that all postseason games be carried on some form of national TV. If the major networks don't want the games, fine. Give them to ESPN or TNT or whoever will take them—but make them available. And at least half of them should be played in the daytime. That's another awful aspect of this new TV contract: Not a single postseason game will be played during the daytime. We're looking at 8:40 p.m. starts and post-midnight finishes on the East Coast until the end of the millennium.

Frankly, I'm just mad as hell about this whole thing. I was sanguine about it at first—you know, the whole "time marches on, and this is part of the deal" thing. But the more I think about it, the more I have to look in the papers and see "National League Central" while I stop to calculate who's leading the damn wild-card race, the angrier I get. Baseball owners are selfish and greedy—we all know that, and we all knew it a long time ago. But deep in the recesses of their tiny little brains, there must be some sense of the grand traditions that have made baseball special. Every single day, it seems another of those traditions is under attack.

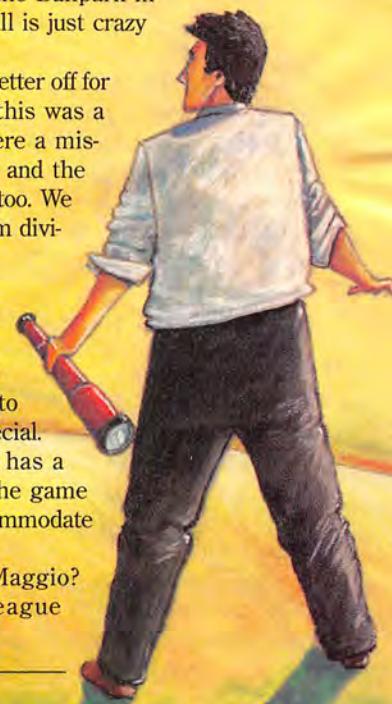
I know it's foolish to bemoan the passing of the good old days. Television is a fact of life; so is free agency and ERAs of 10.00 and games that last four hours. But once upon a time those awful doughnut parks with the Astroturf were a fact of life, too, abominations that kept sprouting up like weeds.

Then Larry Lucchino, then the president of the Baltimore Orioles, had the novel idea of trying to bring back something that resembled the good old days: a modern ballpark with an old-style feel. That ballpark is now Camden Yards. And Camden Yards begot Jacobs Field, which begot the Ballpark in Arlington. And everyone in baseball is just crazy about all three places.

So you *can* go backward and be better off for it. You can say, "Wait a minute—this was a mistake." The doughnut parks were a mistake, and the extra tier of playoffs and the regional TV concept are mistakes, too. We need expansion. We need eight-team divisions. We need some daytime postseason baseball back. And we need playoffs that only the deserving teams get into.

This is 1994. Wrigley Field has lights, but baseball doesn't have to give up everything that made it special. However, it needs someone who has a vision that goes beyond making the game "the regional pastime" just to accommodate television.

Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio? Probably to the American League Central, in search of a wild card. ■



The True All-Star Game

Unlike other sports' equivalents, baseball's midseason classic retains an edge of real competition that fans and players love

By JIM PALMER

THE ONLY MIGRAINE HEADACHE I've had in my life was the morning of the 1970 All-Star Game. I was 25 and an All-Star for the first time. My manager in Baltimore, Earl Weaver, was managing the American League team and had selected me to be the starting pitcher.

That day I sat at the park thinking, "I'm facing a lineup with Willie Mays leading off, Dick Allen hitting second, and then Hank Aaron and Tony Perez." That's when my head started to pound.

There's a special appeal to baseball's All-Star Game. The place it holds in the game's lore is unique in sports—no other pro league has been able to achieve the same status for what is essentially an exhibition of its best athletes.

Think about it: Each baseball All-Star Game seems to create a special memory. For example, because it was not televised, few people actually witnessed the events of the 1934 game, but there aren't many who can't tell the tale of Carl Hubbell striking out Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Al Simmons, and Joe Cronin—five Hall-of-Famers—in a row.

Other sports can't match that allure. The NFL had to move its Pro Bowl to Honolulu to lure players into consenting to compete.

The NBA had to move its All-Star Game to a Sunday, which took lucrative weekend playing dates from local franchises but created an entire weekend of festivities to pump life into what was a dying event. The NHL can't even settle on what format it wants to use.

Baseball stole a few NBA ideas for the day before the game, holding public workouts and skills competitions as a way to raise money for charity. But the main attraction remains the game. It's still played on a Tuesday night, in a major league city, and is considered one of the crown jewels in baseball's national television package.

The migratory nature of baseball's All-Star Game enhances its image. Some cities have waited half a century to host a World Series, but every team eventually gets the All-Star Game. All you have to do is look at the way season-ticket sales soar for the host team—including record-setting sales

in Pittsburgh this year—to realize what the game means to the fans.

Last year in Baltimore you could see how important hosting the game made the people in that city feel. For a short time in July, they were host to the baseball world. It was an opportunity for the city to let the world see what was going on there.

And if you wonder how seriously the fans take the game last summer, ask Toronto manager Cito Gaston, who managed the American League team last year. The folks in Baltimore wanted Mike Mussina to pitch in the game, but Cito didn't use him, and it's easy to understand why. He was managing his pitching staff to win and wanted to use the relievers in the late innings, so he had to keep a starter back in case the game went into extra innings. Mussina was that guy.

However, the next time the



Jim Palmer's 10 Most Memorable All-Star Game Moments:

'34 The Polo Grounds, New York. Carl Hubbell started for the National League, and after the first two batters in the game got on base, he proceeded to strike out the next five hitters, future Hall-of-Famers all: Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Al Simmons, and Joe Cronin. "I was the star of the group."

Hubbell [left] left Vernon Gomez and five stars shaking.



Blue Jays came to Baltimore, the fans were chanting, "Cito sucks! Cito sucks!" I was standing next to Cito in the dugout, and he said, "I don't think I should go out there." I told him, "That's a good idea. I don't even know if I should be standing next to you."



Jackson's clout in 1971 cleared the roof and silenced Tiger Stadium.

Cronin would say later. "I was the only one who got a foul off him."

'71 Tiger Stadium, Detroit. Six home runs were hit in the game won by the American League 6-4, but none was more dramatic than the shot Reggie Jackson hit off the light tower above the right field pavilion. I was warming up to come in and replace Vida Blue, and when Reggie hit that ball there was complete silence in the stadium. It was breathtaking.

'61 Candlestick Park, San Francisco. The wind whips around at Candlestick like nowhere else, and on this

day it was particularly strong. The players blamed the conditions for seven errors—and then there was Stu Miller, who in mid-delivery was blown off the mound and charged with the first balk of his career.

'41 Tiger Stadium, Detroit. The NL had a 5-4 lead in the bottom of the 9th. Cecil Travis of the Washington Senators slid hard into second base to break up a potential game-ending double play, and up stepped Ted Williams—and he delivered

Williams' game-winner in '41: The stuff of legend.



In other sports, all-star games are only diluted versions of the real thing. The NFL schedules the Pro Bowl after the Super Bowl, when most of the players have been home for several weeks and are really feeling the aches and pains of the regular season and the playoffs. In addition, special rules are put in to protect the quarterbacks. And in basketball they don't play defense like they do in the regular season; it's a showcase for raw talent.

But nothing changes in baseball. You're still on the mound, 60 feet, six inches from home plate. It's still 90 feet between the bases. It's still four balls for a walk, three strikes for a strikeout. It's the same game, but with a lineup of the best players in the world.

And believe me, the desire is there. Former American League president Lee MacPhail took it hard when the National League won the All-Star Game his first nine years in office, from 1974 through 1982. You could see the relief in MacPhail's face in 1983, when Fred Lynn hit the first grand slam in All-Star history and the American League won the game 13-3 at Comiskey Park.

It also means something to the fans, who get to see the AL and NL in head-to-head competition for the only time until the World Series, and who get to select the starting lineups. And it means something to the players, who willingly forsake what could be a three-day break in the middle of the 162-game grind for an opportunity to play.

You think the players take the game lightly? In 1950 Ted Williams, coming off

the first home run ever to clear the right field roof at Tiger Stadium.

'33 Comiskey Park, Chicago. This is the year the whole thing began—and in a fitting start for the first gathering of the game's best players, Babe Ruth, the quintessential home run king, delivered the first homer in All-Star Game history.

'67 Anaheim Stadium, Anaheim. Blame it on the twilight of a 4:15 p.m. start, or the strike zone of umpire Ed Runge, but on this night the All-Stars were the pitchers. A record 30 batters struck out—11 on called third strikes—in the National League's 15-inning, 2-1 victory. All three runs came on bases-empty homers, the final blow off the bat of Tony Perez in the 15th.

an MVP year, broke an elbow when he crashed into the wall making a catch in the 1st inning. He missed the next two months of the season—but he didn't come out of that game until the 8th inning, and even singled later to drive in a run.

Even labor disputes don't disrupt the faith of the fans. In 1981, when the players went out on strike for six weeks in midseason, the resumption of play was marked by the All-Star Game in

Cleveland, where an All-Star record crowd of 72,086 showed up.

Unlike the NFL and NBA, baseball so far has resisted the temptation for interleague play (although it very well may come with the next expansion, which should be before the end of this decade). That deliberate separation creates a special aura for baseball. Fans don't just have a team that they root for; they develop an allegiance to either the American League or the National League exclusively. And when there is head-to-head competition—whether it be in the All-Star Game or in the postseason—the fans have a rooting interest in the outcome.

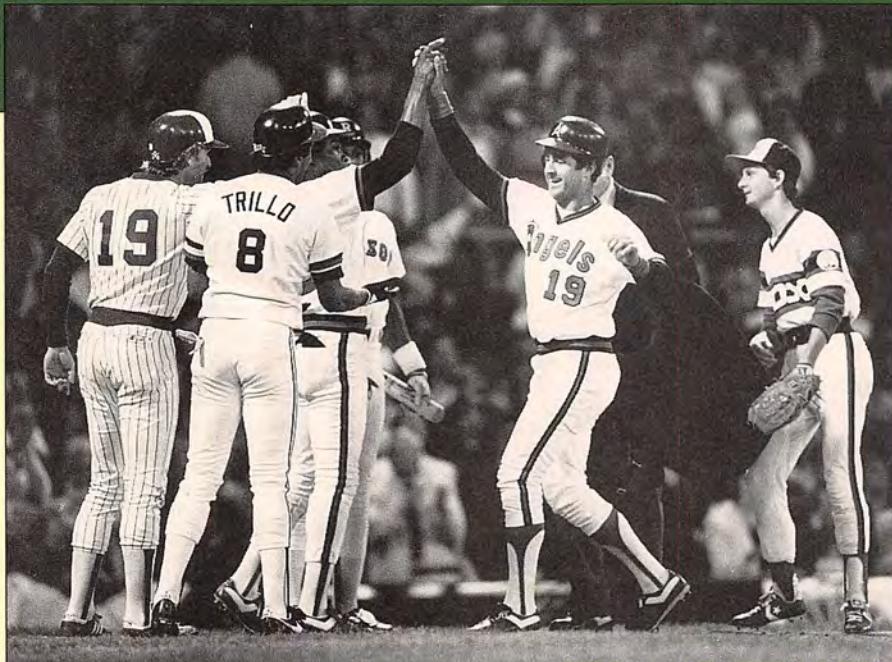
'83 Comiskey Park, Chicago.

The NL had won 11 in a row, but the celebration of the game's 50th anniversary—held in the same park where Ruth had homered half a century before—turned into an AL party. Fred Lynn connected off Atlee Hammaker for the first grand slam in All-Star history, and the American League won 13-3.

'37 Griffith Stadium, Washington, D.C.

Dizzy Dean lost not only the game, but eventually his playing career. That

When Lynn cleared the bases in '83, he also swept away the AL's jinx.



Moreover, for one game in the entire season, the fans get a say in who's going to play. Sure, you can make a case that it's a popularity contest. There's always going to be controversy—players are going to feel slighted, cities are going to be ignored. There will be times when guys aren't able to play because they're hurt, but they'll still be voted in, or guys who are just having a bad year, like Cal Ripken two years ago

when he was the starting shortstop. In fact, in 1989 Mike Schmidt was voted to the starting lineup for the National League even though he had announced his retirement on May 29. And let's not forget 1963, when the *players* selected the team and Mickey Mantle was named to start in center field, even though he had a broken foot.

But you can't discount the fans' enthusiasm, and you can't take away from what it means to a player to have the public feel so strongly for him. Besides, the managers can fill out the roster and the pitching staffs, and try to take care of the injustices. And the contro-



Perez ended a 15-inning pitchers' duel in 1967.

night a line drive off the bat off Earl Averill hit Diz on the left foot and broke a toe; in trying to come back too soon in the second half of the season, Dean favored the left foot and, as a result, strained his right arm. He never won 10 games in a season again and was virtually out of the game three years later.

'68 The Astrodome, Houston.

As the previous year demonstrated, this game isn't always a hitters' showcase. Willie Mays scored the only run in the only 1-0 All-Star Game in history. That run came in the 1st inning when Mays singled, took second on a wild pickoff throw by Luis Tiant, went to third on a wild pitch, and scored when Willie McCovey grounded into a double play. Twelve pitchers combined to strike out 20 hitters, allowing only eight hits.

'84 Candlestick Park, San Francisco.

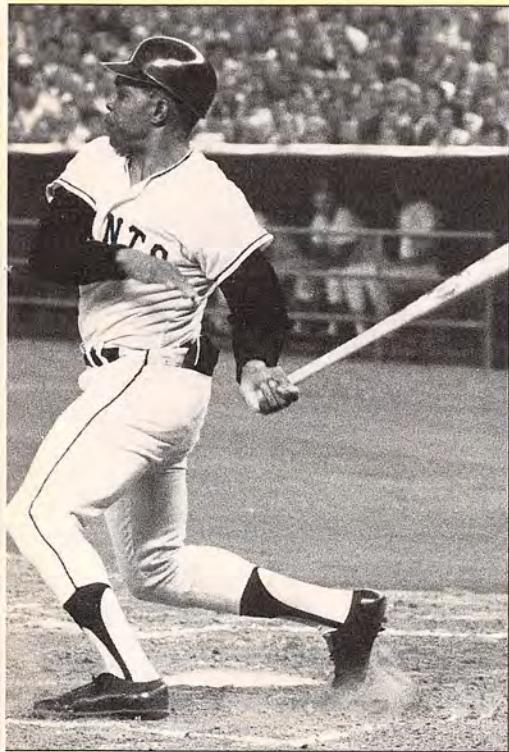
Twenty-one batters struck out—a nine-inning record—including six in a row through the combined efforts of Fernando Valenzuela and 19-year-old Dwight Gooden, who was the youngest All-Star in major league history. □

versy just adds to the public interest.

In the fall of 1978, "Monday Night Football" came to Baltimore for a game, and I was asked to do a halftime interview with Howard Cosell. Don Meredith told me to relax—that in a few minutes, 40 million people were going to see me talking with Howard. I told him: "Big deal. There were 60 million who saw me throw home runs to Joe Morgan, Greg Luzinski, and Steve Garvey in last year's All-Star Game."

Four days after that 1977 All-Star Game I got to pitch on national television against Gaylord Perry. I went 11 innings, and Gaylord went nine, and when I left the score was tied 0-0. There were only four million people watching, not 60 million, but it was my redemption.

In '68 Mays



was the entire NL offense by himself.

The baseball All-Star Game has that competitive feeling for the players. You'll hear guys say it doesn't matter if they don't make the team, that they would rather have the three days off, but believe me—that's more talk than fact. For instance, George Brett was selected to the American League teams in 1986 and 1987 but couldn't play because he was hurt—but George showed up both times. He wanted to be a part of the event.

There's also a camaraderie there you can't find anywhere else. For one day, the guys you're trying to figure out every way possible to beat for 162 games suddenly are your teammates, and a strong bond develops. When you aren't in the game, you're still watching—and over the years the pride factor has grown. You want to prove your league is better than the other.

In 1973 I won the first of my Cy Young awards, and I was 8-3 at the All-Star break; Nolan Ryan was 7-7 but had thrown his first no-hitter. I didn't make the team; Nolan did. There's always somebody left off who deserves to be there—and Nolan added one more dramatic pitcher to the game—but when you're the guy left off you talk a good game. I said I was going to take three days off and go to Ocean City, Md., to get away from things.

The truth is, I've only been to Ocean City once in my life. I watched the game. ■

JIM PALMER worked with contributing writer TRACY RINGOLSBY on this piece.

INSIDE SPORTS

TOP 20 through May 22

RANK	NAME	CITY	PTS
1	Jim Shannon	St. Catharines, ON	1540
2	Peter Grossman	San Carlos, CA	1537
3	Michael Lese	Phoenixville, PA	1532
4	Laura Devlin	Brattleboro, VT	1532
5	Joe Antalek	Beacon, NY	1525
6	Thomas Finnerty	Hoboken, NJ	1524
7	Kelly Watkins	Norcross, GA	1522
8	Michael Cannivet	Buffalo Grove, IL	1522
9	Larry Smith	Glendale, AZ	1521
10	Peter Grossman	San Carlos, CA	1516
11	Hugh Guill	Minnetonka, MN	1516
12	Daniel Reinhart	Champaign, IL	1515

RANK	NAME	CITY	PTS
13	Dan Kooima Jr.	Jenison, MI	1515
14	Howard Nieman	Maywood, IL	1514
15	Carol Porter	San Carlos, CA	1514
16	Peter Petran	Fort Erie, ON	1513
17	Ruth Binder	Vancouver, BC	1508
18	Diggins O'Farrell	New Glasgow, NS	1507
19	Mark Santucci	Satellite Beach, FL	1505
20	Brenda McNair	Whitby, ON	1504



Congratulations to our Weekly Winners!

April 25 - May 1

		Pts	Prize
Brett Chowning	Falls Church, VA	291	\$150
Radha Sankaran	Glen Rock, NJ	268	\$100
Larry Janisewski	Beaver Dam, WI	267	\$50

May 2 - 8

		Pts	Prize
John Coleman	Rochester, MN	244	\$150
David Demarest	Sussex, NJ	235	\$100
Mohammad Ifzaal	Bronx, NY	235	\$50

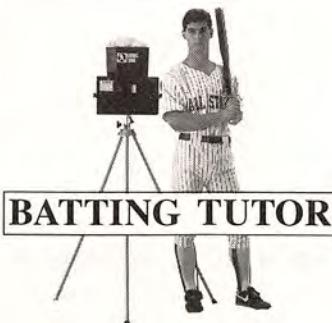
May 9 - 15

		Pts	Prize
Peter Malacaro	West Seneca, NY	280	\$150
Daniel Laskowski	South Orange, NJ	280	\$100
Rodney Pearson	Monterey, CA	274	\$50

May 16 - 22

		Pts	Prize
Lance Thomas	E. Sandwich, MA	292	\$150
Kenneth Hafer	Englewood, OH	292	\$100
Michael Heisler	Franklin, MA	289	\$50

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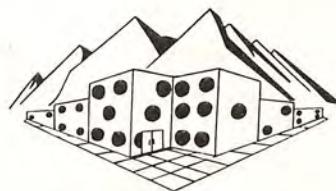
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NUMBERS

TRIAL BY FIRE

What can Heath Shuler and Trent Dilfer expect in their first NFL campaign? If last season suggests a new trend for rookie passers, the two quarterbacks taken in the first round of the draft this year should anticipate a lot of playing time. Last year's two blue-chippers, Rick Mirer and Drew Bledsoe, each threw more rookie passes than any other first-round rookie quarterback since 1970. Here are the top 10 rookie first-round quarterbacks since 1970 in terms of pass attempts (does not include players taken in the supplemental draft):



	R. Mirer Seahawks	D. Bledsoe Patriots	J. George Colts	J. Plunkett Patriots	D. Marino Dolphins	T. Aikman Cowboys	D. Pastorini Oilers	S. Fuller Chiefs	P. Simms Giants	J. Elway Broncos*
Atts.	486	429	334	328	296	293	270	270	265	259
Comp.	274	214	181	158	173	155	127	146	134	123
Yds.	2,833	2,494	2,152	2,158	2,210	1,749	1,702	1,484	1,743	1,663
TDs	12	15	16	19	20	9	7	6	13	7
Ints.	17	15	13	16	6	18	21	14	14	14
Rating	67.0	66.0	73.8	68.6	96.0	55.7	43.7	55.8	65.9	54.9

*Drafted by Colts; rights traded to Broncos.

NOWHERE TO GO BUT DOWN?

In 1993, Tim Salmon and Mike Piazza were the 19th and 20th rookies to top the 30-home run mark. But will that production last? Eight of the 14 now-retired players who hit 30 homers as rookies never again matched their first-year home run total, and three of the four active players before Salmon and Piazza have yet to do so. Overall, only two players on the list—Ted Williams and Jose Canseco—have career home run percentages higher than their rookie figures. Here are the 18 players to hit 30 or more rookie homers (pre-1993), ranked by the difference between their rookie and career home run percentages:

Player, Team, Rookie Year...	—Rookie—		—Career—		—Best Year—		
	HRs	Pct.	HRs	Pct.	Diff.	HRs	Pct.
Ted Williams, Red Sox, 1939	31	5.5	521	6.8	1.3	43 (49)	9.4 (60)
Jose Canseco, A's, 1986*	33	5.5	245	6.3	0.8	44 (91)	7.7 (91)
Ron Kittle, White Sox, 1983	35	6.7	176	6.5	-0.2	—	6.9 (84)
Bob Allison, Senators, 1959	30	5.3	256	5.1	-0.2	35 (63)	6.6 (63)
Pete Incaviglia, Rangers, 1986*	30	5.6	170	4.9	-0.7	—	6.5 (93)
Frank Robinson, Reds, 1956	38	6.6	586	5.9	-0.7	49 (66)	8.5 (66)
Jim Ray Hart, Giants, 1964	31	5.5	170	4.5	-1.0	33 (66)	5.7 (66)
Hal Trosky, Indians, 1934	35	5.6	228	4.4	-1.2	42 (36)	6.7 (36)
Tony Oliva, Twins, 1964	32	4.8	220	3.5	-1.3	—	—
Al Rosen, Indians, 1950	37	6.7	192	5.2	-1.5	43 (53)	7.2 (53)
Mark McGwire, A's, 1987*	49	8.8	229	7.1	-1.7	—	9.0 (92)
Matt Nokes, Tigers, 1987*	32	6.9	127	4.9	-2.0	—	—
Earl Williams, Braves, 1971	33	6.6	138	4.5	-2.1	—	—
Wally Berger, Braves, 1930	38	6.8	242	4.7	-2.1	—	—
Walt Dropo, Red Sox, 1950	34	6.1	152	3.7	-2.4	—	—
Jimmie Hall, Twins, 1963	33	6.6	121	4.2	-2.4	—	—
Willie Montanez, Phillies, 1971	30	5.0	139	2.4	-2.6	—	—
Rudy York, Tigers, 1937	35	9.3	277	4.7	-4.6	—	—

*Career stats through 1993. Figures in bold are career bests; Pct. = home runs per 100 at-bats.

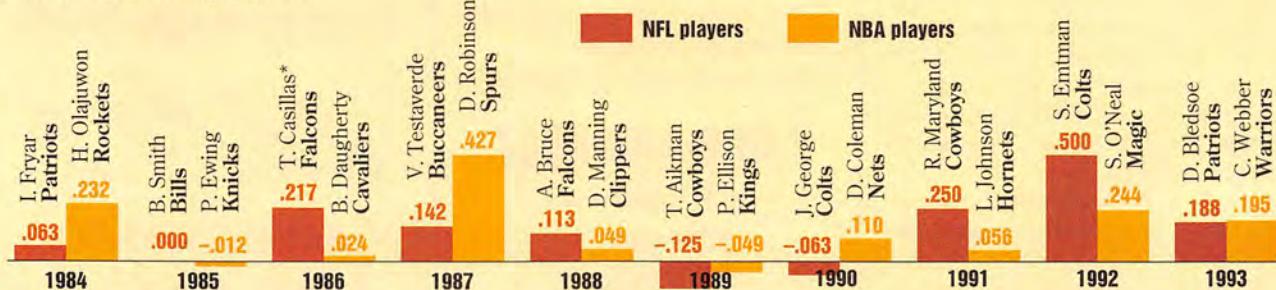
A STRONG IRISH DRAFT

Ten Notre Dame players were selected among the 222 chosen in the '94 NFL draft, easily giving the Irish the strongest draft of any college team, according to our team power ratings. (The ratings assign points based on the inverse of a player's overall draft position—i.e., No. 1 overall pick Dan Wilkinson of Ohio State receives a score of 222; second pick Marshall Faulk receives 221 points, etc.; team scores are the cumulative totals of their drafted players.)

School	Draft Picks	Power Rating	Final '93 AP Rank
1. Notre Dame	10	1370	2
2. Texas A&M	6	941	9
3. Alabama	6	815	14
4. Tennessee	5	738	12
5. California	5	735	25
6. UCLA	5	718	18
7. USC	4	702	—
8. Nebraska	5	655	3
9. Florida State	6	608	1
10. Fresno State	5	604	—
11. Colorado	6	583	16
12. Ohio State	5	536	11
13. North Carolina	4	467	19
14. Florida	4	464	5
15. N.C. State	3	454	—

NO. 1, AND WORTH IT

In both the NBA and NFL, eight of the past 10 teams with the No. 1 pick improved their records from the previous season. Here are the No. 1 picks in the NFL and NBA from 1984 to 1993, and their respective teams' increase or decrease in winning percentage compared with the year before the No. 1 overall pick arrived:

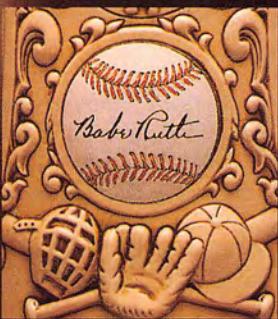


*Tampa Bay selected Bo Jackson No. 1 overall in the 1986 NFL draft, but he chose to play baseball; Tony Casillas was the No. 2 overall pick.

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THE GOOD DOCTOR

So what's the weirdest double feature you've ever seen on a movie marquee?

A.M., QUAPAW, OKLA.
"White Men Can't Jump." "Above the Rim."

Who has the biggest shoe size in the NBA?

D.F., WEST HARTFORD, CONN.
Pete Myers. He had to fill Michael Jordan's shoes.

Oksana Baiul, the figure skating champion in the little pink fuzzy suit, sure does cry a lot, just as Nancy Kerrigan said. Besides winning the gold medal, what makes Oksana cry?

I.C., WATERVILLE, OHIO
The Ukrainian national anthem. Onions. Tonya's broken shoelace. San Diego Padres baseball. Chernobyl. The TV show "Blossom." That book about bridges in Madison County. CBS losing the NFL to Fox. Connie Chung stiffing her during the Lillehammer Games. Trying to remember the words to the Ukrainian national anthem. That big Brady Bunch reunion. Nobody going after her knee. Harrison Ford being chased by Tommy Lee Jones. Going to Disney World. Nancy asking if she'd like to trade medals.

Doc, what do Larry Bird, Charles Barkley, and Kevin McHale have planned for next year?

M.J., DEEP GAP, N.C.
Tryouts with the White Sox.

Now that Barry Switzer is coach of the Dallas Cowboys, might he install a wishbone?

M.I., TICE, FLA.
He'd better not, or Aikman and Irvin will snap him like one.

Who did Fox hire away from CBS for its NFL coverage?

P.T., URBANDALE, IOWA
Madden, Bradshaw, and Letterman's mom.

How long did it take for Jim Rome to restore order in his ESPN2 TV studio after Jim Everett trashed it?

E.S., TWO HARBORS, MINN.
Rome wasn't rebuilt in a day.

That new baseball stadium of the Texas Rangers is great. Has it inspired any new architectural models?

G.B., ROWLETT, TEXAS
Yes. The new Ballpark in Arlington is such a success, team owners are now building the Football Stadium in Irving, the Basketball Arena in Dallas, the College Field in Austin, the Hockey Rink Near Dallas, and the Big Domed Thing in Houston.

At their annual convention in Chicago, who did all of the top mascots from sports ask to see?

J.C., CARROLLTON, GA.
Robin Ventura, Pet Detective.

Of all the players in baseball, which one shows the most compassion on TV talks shows?

J.O., SAVAGE, MD.
Sally Jesse Rafael Palmeiro.

From what illness does an Atlanta Braves phenom suffer if he's always caught stealing?

B.C., PRICHARD, ALA.
Kleskomania.

Nolan Richardson, coach of the national champion Arkansas Razorbacks basketball team, kept saying, "I get no respect. I get no respect." He says Dick



They'll only run Barry's pet offense once in Dallas.

Vitale didn't even give him a nickname. Doc, why don't you give him one?

S.U., DEXTER, MO.
How about "Rodney"?

San Antonio's David Robinson learned a slot from being in the Navy. Anything in particular that he passed along to Dennis Rodman?

K.P., ST. ALBAN'S, VT.
Addresses to all the tattoo parlors.

People tell me they never have seen Chris Evert go crazy like she did on TV last week. What happened?

J.E., BURAS, LA.
Some guy called her "Jim."

Gordie Howe didn't spend much time paying tribute to Wayne Gretzky after that 802nd goal. Anything you'd like to give Gordie?

M.M., PENTICTON, B.C.
Two minutes for dissing.

On what TV network can I find Patrick Ewing, Pat Riley, and Patty Duke?

D.V., DANVILLE, ILL.
Knick at Night.

What do George Brett, Nolan Ryan, and Carlton Fisk have planned for next year?

M.J., TRAVELER'S REST, S.C.
Tryouts with the Bulls. ■

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Cowboys	22 Smith	49ers	80 Rice
Broncos	7 Elway	49ers	32 Watters
Broncos	84 Sharpe	49ers	8 Young
Bills	12 Kelly	Colts	90 Entzman
Bills	78 B. Smith	Colts	* Faulk
Bills	83 Reed	Packers	84 Sharpe
Dolphins	34 Thomas	Packers	92 White
Dolphins	13 Marino	Steelers	26 Woodson
Browns	88 Jackson	Steelers	33 Hoge
Browns	21 Metcalf	Steelers	29 Foster
Oilers	79 Chidress	Chiefs	58 Thomas
Oilers	81 Givens	Chiefs	19 Montana
Eagles	12 Cunningham	Lions	20 B. Sanders
Eagles	21 Allen	Lions	56 Swilling
Eagles	34 Walker	Lions	84 Moore
Redskins	80 Howard	Chargers	55 Seau
Redskins	* Shuler	Patriots	11 Bledsoe
Jets	85 Moore	Cardinals	7 Burleigh
Jets	7 Eason	Cardinals	23 Hearst
Jets	42 Lott	Seahawks	96 Kennedy
Bears	35 Anderson	Seahawks	3 Mirer
Bears	80 Conway	Bucs	* Diller
Giants	56 Taylor	Bengals	40 Alomzo Mourning
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Vikings	81 Carter	Rams	90 Gilbert

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Suns	34 Barkley	Warriors	10 Hardaway
Suns	7 Johnson	Warriors	30 Ovens
Suns	9 Majerle	Warriors	15 Sprewell
Blazers	22 Drexler	Warriors	4 Webber
Heat	3 Smith	Sonic	13 Galli
Heat	32 Miner	Sonic	40 Kemp
Suns	50 Robinson	Sonic	20 Payton
Spurs	10 Rodman	Sonic	11 Schrempf
Hornets	1 Bogues	Bullets	43 Ellison
Hornets	2 Johnson	Nuggets	55 Mutombo
Hornets	33 Mourning	Knicks	33 Ewing
Jazz	12 Stockton	Knicks	33 Starks
Jazz	32 Malone	Cavaliers	25 Malone
Bulls	23 Jordan	Twolves	32 Latimer
Bulls	33 Pippen	Twolves	34 Hardin
Lakers	32 Johnson	Kings	2 Hurley
Lakers	1 Peeler	Kings	2 Richmond
Lakers	9 Van Ekel	Pacers	31 Miller
Magic	25 Anderson	Hawks	2 Augmon
Magic	32 Hardaway	Clippers	31 Wilkins
Magic	32 O'Neal	Mavs	32 Mashburn
Magic	3 Scott	Mavs	24 Jackson
Nets	44 Coleman	Rockets	34 Olajuwon
Nets	7 Anderson	Sixers	30 Weatherspoon

WHEN ORDERING COLLEGE ITEMS, MATCH PRODUCT LETTERS BELOW THE PICTURES WITH THE COLLEGE YOU WANT TO ORDER. IF THE PRODUCT LETTER APPEARS BEHIND THE SCHOOL NAME, IT IS AVAILABLE.

Alabama	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	STUVWX
Arizona	AB D E GHJKL NOP T	X
Arizona St.	D E GHJKL NOP T	X
Arkansas	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	WX
Auburn	CD FGHJKL NOP TU	X
Brigham Young	DEFGH JKL NOP TU	W
California	ABCDEF G K N P	W
Clemson	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	TUVWX
Colorado	CDEFHGIJKLMNOP	STUVWX
UCone	AB E FGHJKL NOP TU	X
Duke	DEFGHJKL NOP T	X
Florida	AB DEFGHJKL NOP RSTUVWX	
Florida St.	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	RSTUVWX
Georgetown	AB EFGHJKL NOP RSTUVWX	
Georgia	AB DEFGHJKL NOP TU	W
Georgia Tech	AB DEFGHJKL NOP RSTUVWX	
Hawaii	DEFGHJKL NOP TU	W
Illinois	DEFGHJKL NOP T	X
Indiana	ABC EFGHJKL NOP RSTUVWX	
Kansas	D EFGHJKL NOP R U WX	
Kentucky	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	RSTUVWX
Louisiana St.	AB EFGH JKLNOP TU	X
Louisville	D FGHJKL NOP TU	X
Maryland	E GH KL NO	
Michigan	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	TUVWX
Michigan St.	DE GH JKL NOP TU	U
Minnesota	D EFGH JKLNOP TU	W
Mississippi	D EFGH JKLNOP TU	W
Mississippi St.	D FGH KI NO Q T	
Missouri	D G K	
Nebraska	DEFGHJKL NOP R U WX	
N. Carolina	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	RSTUVWX
N. Carolina St.	FG JKLNOP TU	
Notre Dame	ABC EFGHJKL NOP R STVWX	
Ohio St.	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	TUVWX
Oklahoma	DEFGH JKLNOP TU	W
Oklahoma St.	C E GH LMNO	WX
Oregon	DEFGHJKL NOP R TU	V
Penn St.	DEFGH JKLNOP TU	V
Pittsburgh	DEFGH JKLNOP TU	V
S. Carolina	ABCDEFH JKLNOP	W
SMU	E FGH JKLNOP	W
St. John's	DEFGH JKLNOP	W
Stanford	ABCDEF GHJLNOP	U
Syracuse	AB D FGHJKL N P R TUVWX	
Tennessee	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	STUVWX
Texas	AB DEFGHJKL NOP RSTUVWX	
Texas A&M	CDE GH L N P O	W
Texas Tech	DEFGHJKL MNOP RSTUVWX	
UCLA	AB FGHJKL MNOP RSTUVWX	
UNLV	ABCDEFHGIJKLMNOP	STUVWX
Vanderbilt	DEFGH JKLNOP TU	V
Virginia	DEFGH JKLNOP TU	V
Washington	DEFGHJKL MNOP RSTUVWX	
Washington St.	DEFGH JKLNOP TU	W
West Virginia	DEFGH JKLNOP TU	W
Wisconsin	DE GHI KL NOP U W	



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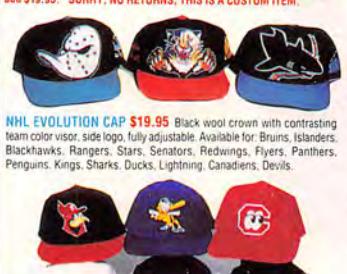
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CARD #					
Exp. Date	□ - □				
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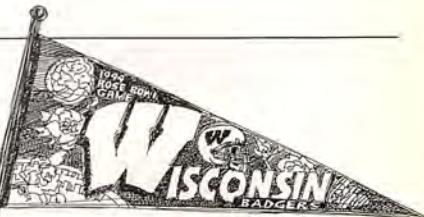
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THE FAN

By CHRIS FARLEY
of "Saturday Night Live"



Badgers, Brewers, and Bratwurst

I'VE BEEN A DIEHARD FAN of the University of Wisconsin football team ever since I was a little zit-faced rodent growing up in Madison, Wis. I would attend all the home games with my father, who had season tickets, and we'd have a blast tailgating outside Camp Randall Stadium soaking up all the pregame atmosphere. I also loved attending Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers games in the summer and eating bratwurst until I couldn't walk anymore. I'm telling you, Milwaukee County Stadium has some of the best eats in the country.

I attended the Badgers home football opener last season with Tom Arnold. The team was looking real good, and I could tell they were going to have a great season. I didn't really expect them to go all the way to the Rose Bowl, however. After all, it seemed that every year that game was reserved for the Michiganders and Ohio States of the Big Ten.

Last season was very gratifying. Not only was it the Badgers' first trip to Pasadena in 31 years, but they capped off a kickass season by defeating the UCLA Bruins 21-16. I attended that game, and it was awesome because it was just a sea of red in the Rose Bowl, with all of the Badgers supporters screaming their lungs out. It was great! The Badgers finished the season with a 10-1 record, which was their best finish since 1942, when they were coached by Harry Stuhldreher and finished 8-1.

The turning point for the Badgers program came in 1990, when the athletic director, Pat Richter, hired former Notre Dame assistant coach Barry Alvarez. Both of them have done an unbelievable job of turning the program around. Things were a little rough at first—in Alvarez's first sea-



I used to love tailgating in Madison, or eating brats at Brewers games until I couldn't walk anymore.

son the team was just 1-10, and the following two seasons they were a tad under .500. Yet regardless of the records, the Badgers faithful were confident the program was on the right track.

One of Alvarez's greatest attributes is that he's a great motivator—he's instilled a great sense of Badgers pride in each and every one of his players. I've known Barry for a while, and I love him. Whenever I talk to him, I can't help but feel the passion he has for Badgers football. Although he's a very friendly person, when it comes down to business he simply wins.

The Badgers fans are some of the most loyal followers you'll ever see in college athletics, and if anyone really looks deep into the riot that unfolded after one of their home games last season, they'll under-

stand that it could have happened at any school. No school is exempt from fans going a little overboard, and I think it was an ugly and regrettable incident where the fans simply got caught up in the passion of the moment.

One of the most amazing things to me regarding college athletics as a whole is the time commitment that these student-athletes make to participate in sports today. It's a big job to play college sports. Football takes away from their studies, social life, and a lot of other things. The commitment that some of my friends made who did have scholarships was unbelievable. Some of them even had to drop out because they weren't cutting the mustard and were still on scholarship, and I've heard the horror stories of schools trying to break their spirits so they would quit and free up a scholarship for some other athlete.

These players are under a lot of pressure, so maybe they should get compensated with a little something. After all, these schools are putting millions and millions of dollars into their own coffers. When you're in the working world, you realize the value of these players—they're worth a lot.

Yet on the other hand, the education they're receiving is an extremely valuable commodity that's worth upwards of \$80,000 at some private schools over a four-year period. The whole question of whether these kids should be compensated or not is a loaded one, because I can see both sides of the argument.

I'd hate to see the Badgers fans become fickle if the team doesn't do quite as well as last season and get down on them if they don't make it back to the Rose Bowl. I see that enough in my profession, where one year everyone loves you and you're the greatest, and the next they'll turn on you. That's the nature of this country.

The pressure is on Barry and Pat to do it again—and more power to them if they do—but in my heart they've done it already. ■

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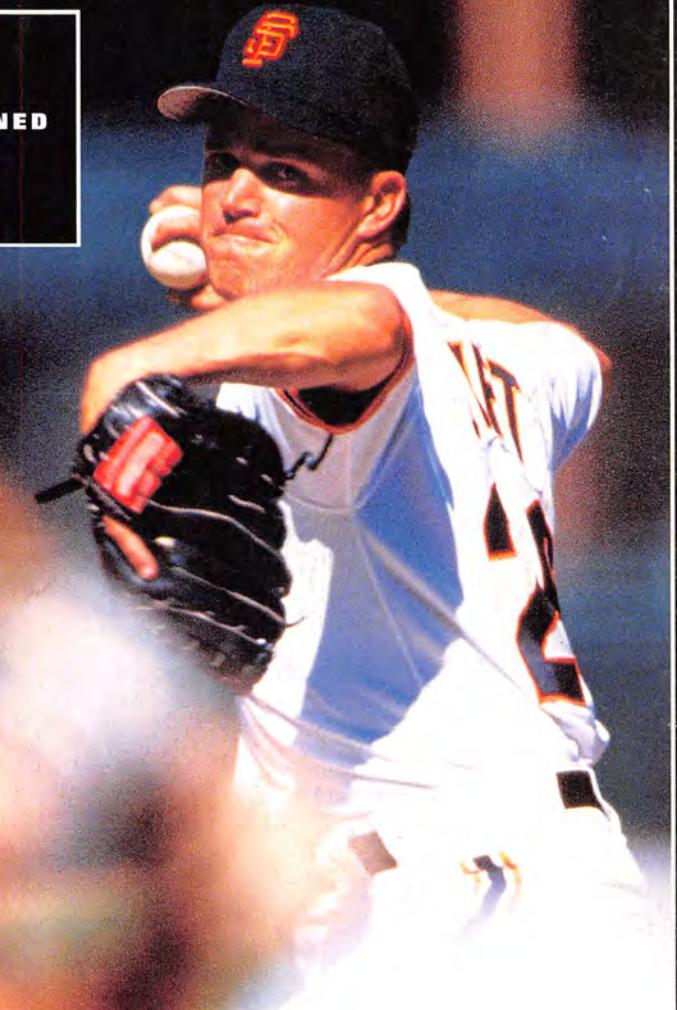


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